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# NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATES OUTLINED IN THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF PORT OF SPAIN FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(Republic of Trinidad and Tobago)

**REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

***"Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability."***

# NATIONAL REPORT

# ON

# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATES OUTLINED IN THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF PORT OF SPAIN

# FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

***Submitted by: The Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Implementation and Follow-Up of the Mandates outlined in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain***

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## INTRODUCTION

As host of the Fifth Summit of the Americas which took place during the period April 17-19, 2009 Trinidad and Tobago brought the issue of implementation of the mandates prescribed in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain to the forefront of the hemispheric agenda.

Trinidad and Tobago committed itself to the idea that the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain must be able to deliver real and lasting results for the people of the region.

**The Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain**

The Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain is sub-divided into a preamble and 5 pillars:

- → Promoting Human Prosperity
- → Promoting Energy Security
- → Promoting Environmental Sustainability
- → Strengthening Public Security
- → Strengthening Democratic Governance

Following the paragraphs pertaining to the 5 pillars, is the final section entitled: Strengthening the Summit of the Americas, Follow-Up and Implementation Effectiveness.

**The Preamble (Paragraphs 1 – 6)**

The Fifth Summit of the Americas was officially launched in Port of Spain on February 26, 2008 the theme adopted was: *"Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability."* In the Concept Paper, the various challenges confronting the Hemisphere were identified and it was explained that the Summit's theme would focus on mechanisms to reduce "critical vulnerabilities" and improve "the well-being and safety of the peoples of the Americas.

Paragraphs 1 to 6 serves to position the Hemisphere and outlines the general commitments which the Heads of State and Government seek to achieve. Following the negotiations, six (6) paragraphs form part of the Preamble and they cover the principles upon which the Heads of State and Government pledge to act in order to address challenges. There is also the understanding that they will continue to support the main international and hemispheric founding instruments along with

the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development (2002) and the Millennium Declaration (2000). The approach and the mechanisms to be adopted by individual governments are contained in each Section of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

**Methodology to Implementation**

Trinidad and Tobago recognised that in an effort to successfully execute the process of implementation, consultations with various stakeholders were critically important. As such, special Meetings were held with interest groups. These interest groups included Civil Society (including women's rights groups, non-governmental organizations, etc.), Trade Union representatives to review the issues relevant to labour and human prosperity, Youth and the Private Sector to discuss Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability.

Additionally, members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee received training on the use of SISCA from members of the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat through the coordination of the OAS Resident Office in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Port of Spain Declaration presented this Hemisphere with an opportunity for multiple sectors of society to define together a system to monitor, systematize and follow-up on the goals to which the Declaration gives rise. The Fifth Summit of the Americas propelled Trinidad and Tobago to mount a strong implementation process that includes mechanisms for successful participation by all stakeholders to maximize the benefits to the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

***"Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability"***

## PROMOTING HUMAN PROSPERITY

The longest and most detailed section of the Declaration deals with promoting human prosperity as it covers the key issues associated with achieving this pillar. In this regard, it was imperative to signal the recognition of the ongoing economic and financial crisis and to advance the call for cooperation and collaboration. The main challenges included poverty and vulnerability hence the reason for increased efforts to continue promotion of access to education, health, nutrition, energy and basic social services. More opportunities are to be made for dignified and decent work. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago commits to stimulate income growth, better income distribution, increase productivity and protection of workers' rights and the environment.

### SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Trinidad and Tobago identifies the achievement of self-sustaining growth as one of its principal objectives. This country's economic strategy recognises that our energy resource is a finite asset, the returns from which should be employed to diversify the productive base and transform the economy. Trinidad and Tobago mandates the extension of the frontiers of the energy sector and the development of an export-based internally dynamic non-energy sector. The transformation of the economy along these lines will guarantee self-sustaining growth, deliver high quality jobs, lift per capita income to first world levels and improve income distribution and social welfare for the benefit of the society at large.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is commitment to maximizing the use of the country's resources, in order to strengthen capacity, harness potential, prioritize projects and improve the quality of service delivery to all citizens.

Benefits have accrued to the Trinidad and Tobago economy since the year 2001, in the form of a robust economy based on sound fiscal discipline and the enhanced credibility of this country's monetary policy framework. Trinidad and Tobago's strategy is to continue to generate economic growth by adopting a medium term approach; utilise output budgeting to further enhance economic management; foster efficiency in the various sectors and promote institutional reform in several areas of activity.

The Government has expended considerable effort in search of new modalities for the efficient delivery of government services and for ensuring timely and cost-effective project implementation, while adhering to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Government, after due consultation with various stakeholders has adopted a number of fiscal, monetary and sectoral policy prescriptions that will underpin the economic recovery and strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's existing platform for the creation of sustained growth and development. The private sector is recognised as a partner in the growth process and in the context of the prevailing economic climate, this partnership needs to be expanded. Government will continue to apply the appropriate enabling environment to consolidate this partnership.

In its investment programme, Trinidad and Tobago has intensified its focus on infrastructural development to ease existing production bottlenecks – in the transportation network, electricity, water, drainage and telecommunications. At the same time, ongoing initiatives in health, education, housing, social protection and national security will be continued.

Over the period 2001-2008 Trinidad and Tobago slipped in global competitiveness from a high of 34 in 2001-2002 to a low of 92 in 2008-2009 out of 132 countries in the latest period. However, during the period 2009-2010 Trinidad and Tobago Global Competitive Rank rose from 92 to 86 out of 133 countries[1]. This represents the first time in nine (9) years that this country's competitiveness has improved among other countries of the world.

According to this latest Global Competitiveness Rank, Trinidad and Tobago has improved on seven (7) of the 12 pillars that are used to compute global competitiveness. These pillars are institutions (1st pillar), Infrastructure (2nd pillar), Macroeconomic Stability (3rd pillar), Health and Primary Education (4th pillar), Higher Education and Training (5th pillar), Financial Market Sophistication (8th pillar) and Market Size (10th pillar). These indicators are now illustrated below in Table 1.

**Table 1**

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX, 2008-2010**

| Global Competitive Index | Rank (out of | Score (1-7) | Global Competitive Index | Rank (out of | Score (1-7) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

[1] This represents a 6 point upward movement in global competitiveness for Trinidad and Tobago in just one year.

| | 133) | | | 132) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GCI 2009-2010** | **86** | **3.9** | **GCI 2008-2009** | **92** | **3.9** |
| Institutions | 80 | 3.7 | Institutions | 104 | 3.4 |
| Infrastructure | 54 | 4.1 | Infrastructure | 63 | 3.6 |
| Macroeconomic stability | 23 | 5.4 | Macroeconomic stability | 51 | 5.2 |
| Health and primary education | 62 | 5.5 | Health and primary education | 72 | 5.4 |
| Higher education and training | 63 | 4.0 | Higher education and training | 78 | 3.8 |
| Financial market sophistication | 34 | 4.7 | Financial market sophistication | 52 | 4.6 |
| Market size | 102 | 2.9 | Market size | 103 | 2.7 |

Sources: Global Competitiveness Report, 2008-2009

Global Competitiveness Report, 2009-2010

In relation to the development of the business sector and other productive economic sectors it is important to note that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has identified seven (7) targeted non-energy sectors for the diversification of the economy away from the helms of the non-renewable energy sector. These sectors are:

- Film;
- Fish and Fish Processing;
- Food and Beverage;
- Merchant Marine;
- Music and Entertainment;
- Printing and Packaging; and
- Yachting

To this end, Industry Specialists and relevant secretarial support have been mobilized to develop and grow these Sectors so as to assist in the diversification of the economy. Strategic Plans have also been developed for all seven (7) Sectors and are currently being executed. Furthermore, a range of incentives have been provided that are sector-specific to individuals and companies in the above-mentioned Sectors to assist the various sectors. In all Sectors Industry Development Committee, Industry Development Boards or Industry Development

Councils have been approved by Cabinet and are functioning to move the Sectors forward.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has recently developed a Draft Investment Policy focusing on ten (10) sectors that are earmarked for increased investment in Trinidad and Tobago. Two (2) of these sectors are Tourism and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). As such, emphasis has been placed on further developing and growing these sectors among other non-energy sectors. Another of the ten (10) sectors identified for investment is that of Financial Services. It must be noted that a clear relationship can be traced between the provision of Financial Services and Information and Communication Technology linking the two (2) sectors.

## SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

In the year 2009 the contribution of trade to the economy and the trade performance of Trinidad and Tobago must be highlighted in the context of a multilateral trading arena. During the period 2000-2008, Trinidad and Tobago's domestic merchandise exports had increased by approximately 330% from TT$26.4Bn to TT$113.5Bn. As a result, overseas trade has facilitated the promotion of growth, development and employment in the economy coupled with the proliferation of a large number of small and medium-sized companies. In 2004, domestic exports were TT$40.0Bn or 47.8% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)[2] however, by 2008, domestic exports contributions rose to 74.6% of a GDP. This represents an 86.5 % increase in the contribution of exports to GDP over the period under study.

Although the global economy is recovering from financial and economic crisis, Trinidad and Tobago is in a relatively stronger position to mitigate these challenges than other countries due to the unique composition of the economy and concerted efforts by Business Development Company Ltd. to actively seek out export markets and promote exports as a compulsory economic activity by local manufacturers.

A focus on overseas trade is necessary given the ongoing dynamics in the international trading environment especially with the opening up of markets, the growing strength of trading blocs across the globe and increased competition. At the multilateral level, Trinidad and Tobago continues its active participation in the current Doha Development Round of WTO negotiations.

Trinidad and Tobago's main interest in the negotiations is to ensure that the development dimension is at the center of any outcome of the Round with special and differential treatment being afforded to Small and Vulnerable Economies

[2] GDP at Market or Current Prices

(SVEs). As a member of the WTO, Trinidad and Tobago continues to follow the negotiations and actively participate in such through its membership in groups such as the G33, the Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVE's) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group**.**

The CSME[3] is the foremost vehicle for the facilitation of the required level of competition amongst individual CARICOM Member States. The pooling of the individual resources of each CARICOM Country capital, technology, labour could enhance the production of goods and services, given economies of scale and scope that lowers the cost of production and increases efficiency yielding high quality low-priced competitive product. Furthermore, within the last decade CARICOM forged trading relationships with hemispheric partners such as the Dominican Republic; Costa Rica; and Cuba.

There are efforts to expand the existing CARICOM-Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement to include El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua (CA4); and Panama. This will help local firms gain the experience required in accessing international markets and thereby build the requisite competencies to prepare further for heightened global competition.

Under these guidelines, Trinidad and Tobago would continue to facilitate competitiveness; seek to establish new trading arrangements; and increase market access to the benefit to our local manufacturers and services providers; thereby, continuing to expand growth, development, and employment in the economy.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development issues in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain can be viewed as a mirror image of one of the seven developmental pillars espoused by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago: *'People-Centred Development'*.

### The Issue of Poverty

Poverty reduction and human development are the main thrust of the Ministry of the People and Social Development of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. This arm of the Government seeks to improve the standard and quality of life of the nation's citizens through programmes and facilities that are developmental and entrepreneurial in nature; and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable members of society, inclusive of the protection of children.

→ *Poverty Reduction Programme*

[3] Caribbean Single Market and Economy

The Poverty Reduction Programme seeks to contribute to the overall reduction of poverty in Trinidad and Tobago and aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- The improvement of the delivery of poverty reduction services
- Strengthening of the institutional framework for poverty reduction
- The strengthening of the information system on poverty and poverty reduction

→ *Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme*

Additionally, there exists the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP) aimed at reducing the incidence of poverty by promoting nutrition and food security to vulnerable households.

→ *STEP UP- Fighting Poverty Building Strong Families*

Some of the main components of the STEP-UP include the provision a system which contains programmes intended to protect the vulnerable so as to prevent further hardship, and to provide developmental opportunities for sustainable poverty reduction and acquisition of life skills.

→ *Social Assistance Grants*

The Social Assistance Grants under the Social Welfare Division seeks to improve the quality of life of the poor in Trinidad and Tobago, by supporting those who are unable to support themselves due to illness or injury.

→ *Provision of Micro-Credit Facilities*

The Ministry of the People and Social Development is committed to the provision of Micro-Credit facilities that promote sustainable livelihoods among the underprivileged. In this regard, the following two micro-credit initiatives are currently being implemented:

- Micro-Enterprise Loan Facility (MEL)

In fiscal 2009, forty–four loans were awarded to various communities.

- Micro Enterprise Training and Development Grant (MEG)

In fiscal 2009, thirty-nine (39) grants were disbursed in areas such as Sewing, Agriculture, Educational services, Hairdressing and Day Care Services.

**Issues Related to the Disabled**

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognises the constraints encountered by disabled persons in our society, and in 2008, became a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In accordance with

the Declaration of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), the Ministry of the People and Social Development of Trinidad and Tobago continues to provide support for persons with disabilities through various initiatives. These include the promotion of policy guidelines that seek to empower persons with disabilities to lead normal and productive lives.

In 2005, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago approved the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities which articulates a holistic framework for achieving the goals of social inclusion and equality of opportunity for all citizens with disabilities.

Initiatives to support the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago include:

→ Access to Social Protection and Financial Assistance

→ Education

- Provision of textbooks and reading material in braille and large print
- Provision of braille for students with visual impairment
- Commenced the recruitment process to employ additional interpreters in schools to facilitate hearing impaired students
- Approximately 70 schools (both primary and secondary) have been modified to accommodate students with disabilities

→ Access to Health

- First year and second year students at primary schools are screened for hearing impairment and corrective action taken
- Medication and testing equipment are provided to persons with disabilities through the CDAP[4] programme

→ Access to Built Physical Infrastructure

- Several Government offices (Ministry of the Attorney General, Social Welfare Offices of the Ministry of the People and Social Development and the Industrial Court) have provided physical access to their offices.
- The Ministry of Works and Transport has begun to modify sidewalks in rural districts.

→ Access to Transportation

[4] The Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) provides citizens with free prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical items to combat various health conditions.

→ Access to Employment

→ Access to Sport, Recreation, Leisure and Hospitality

The Disability Unit for Disability Studies in the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine is dedicated to teaching, research and public information. Specifically, its programmes are designed to achieve the following:

- To promote inclusiveness amongst Trinidad and Tobago's diverse population.
- To assist in helping others appreciate the range of abilities that all members of society possess.
- To assist in helping the UWI to be better prepared for the students with disabilities who are currently part of the student body and the anticipated increase in such students.

The Social Disability Studies course facilitates research on persons with disabilities and institutions/agencies of and for persons with disabilities. The community outreach work of the Unit has been conducted through partnerships with agencies such as the Autism Society, Leonard Cheshire Homes Inc. and Disabled People International to host seminars and conduct research. For example, a national seminar on disability was held by the social disability class of 2004/5 and the Leonard Cheshire Home Inc. Other activities include a website called "Center of Focus for Disability Studies."

These various initiatives have contributed to promoting a greater level of social inclusion for persons with disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Issues Related to the Aged**

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of the People and Social Development, is committed to strengthening formal and informal safety nets for the elderly. These include elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against seniors. The Ministry's work is aligned to the tenets of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), as endorsed by Trinidad and Tobago at the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid, Spain in 2002.

Trinidad and Tobago has thus instituted a series of measures to defend the rights and dignity of the elderly in society.

→ National Policy on Ageing

Trinidad and Tobago's National Policy on Ageing was launched in 2007 and considers priority areas for action which include Social security, income security and employment, participation, involvement and social inclusion; dignity and respect for the elderly; healthcare and standards for hospitals and care facilities; housing; education and training; recreation; legislation; transportation; disaster preparedness and research.

The Ministry of the People and Social Development has already commenced implementation of some of the action areas of the Policy which include:

- Collaboration with the United nations and other international agencies employing research studies on ageing
- Collaboration with NGOs and CBOs to operate and manage senior citizens centres throughout Trinidad and Tobago
- The restructuring of the Patient Care Assistants' Programme of the Ministry of Health which would reinforce and improve health care for seniors in their homes.

→ Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP)

It was discovered that the major health illnesses faced by the elderly are chronic non- communicable diseases such as hypertension, arthritis and diabetes. The State has, therefore, provided universal access to free health services at the nation's health clinics and hospitals and older persons can also obtain selected drugs at no cost under the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP).

→ Senior Activity Centres
→ Senior Citizens Grant
→ Social support for the elderly
→ Extension of the retirement age
→ Public fora on ageing

The Disability Studies Unit at the UWI, St. Augustine has been teaching a course on Social Gerontology since the academic year 2004/2005. This course had as a goal the preparation of the student for the inevitable ageing of the population and the resulting policy implications.

**Youth Development**

The World Bank Report, *Trinidad and Tobago Youth and Social Development: An Integrated Approach for Social Inclusion* (2000) contended that Trinidad and Tobago possessed a population of 400,000 youth, aged 10 to 24, which accounted for

about 30% of the population.[5] More recent statistics from the Central Statistical Office indicated that 33.8% (1,308,587) of Trinidad and Tobago's population are youth.[6] Programmes and systems must, therefore, be put in place to harness this resource for the continued development of the country.

→ National Youth Policy

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago formulated a National Youth Policy of Trinidad and Tobago which provides a broad framework within which Government's youth policy initiatives will be executed. The Policy emphasizes youth empowerment while recognizing Government's responsibility to create a facilitative framework and so provide support to ensure the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago. The policy promotes a vision of empowered young people who are able to make informed choices so that they can lead meaningful, enjoyable lives and contribute to the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is mandated with the task of being the youth policy making body.

*Youth Employment* – Trinidad and Tobago seeks to eliminate youth unemployment through the various initiatives outlined below:

→ Job placement and career counselling services

→ Youth Entrepreneurship Success (YES) programme

The Youth Entrepreneurship Success (YES) programme targets young persons between the ages 18-30 and seeks to encourage an entrepreneurial culture through lifestyle and business training.

→ Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)

- YTEPP is an intervention strategy aimed at addressing the issue of escalating unemployment, particularly among young persons between the ages of 15 and 25. YTEPP Limited offers over 80 vocational courses in 12 occupational areas.

→ On the Job Training Programme (OJT)

[5] Available at http://msya.gov.tt/home/images/stories/pdf/national%20youth%20policy.pdf
[6] Available at http://msya.gov.tt/home/images/stories/pdf/national%20youth%20policy.pdf

- Under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, this programme is designed to provide young persons with the opportunity to acquire work experience in order to develop the necessary skills and attitudes for their entry or re-entry into the world of work.

→ The Tobago Youthbuild Programme

- The Youthbuild Programme provides free classes to young people that teach useful skills that will help them earn a living and lead more fulfilling and productive lives.

→ Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres (YDAC)

- YDAC offers a variety of training programmes for young men and women between the ages of 15 and 17.

→ Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)

  - This programme is designed to sensitize young people to the ageing process and help them, through training and field visitation, to develop practical skills in geriatric care. It aims to foster a sense of self-worth, discipline and national consciousness and to fully integrate youth into the larger community so that they can interface effectively with older adults. As part of the programme, a placement agency assists in placing interested graduates of GAPP in the community, to provide companionship support to the elderly.

→ Youth Rise project

→ The project aims at providing "at risk" young persons with viable options to support business start up and growth for self-employment and self actualization.

→ National Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago

- The implementation of the National Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago will enable youth organizations to have a democratic voice on issues affecting them in Trinidad and Tobago.

→ National Youth Assembly

- This is an elected Assembly of young persons representing the forty-one constituencies of Trinidad and Tobago. The members are nominated and elected by young people within each constituency. Once elected members meet with sitting Members of Parliament to discuss constituency youth issues.

**Youth Education**

The following programmes exist to harness the objective of youth education:

→ Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

→ Curriculum Development

→ Modernisation and Development of a New Secondary School Curriculum

→ Secondary Schools Programme

→ Student Support Services

→ Scholarship Programme

→ The University of the West Indies - The Government of Trinidad and Tobago continues to support the University of the West Indies.

→ Establishment of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)

The UTT was established and legally incorporated in September 2004.

→ National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST)

→ The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)

→ The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme (GATE)

The UWI, St. Augustine provides training and research in youth-related matters in a number of Social Work and Sociology courses. Apart from a course in Developmental Psychology in the Department of Behavioural Studies, there is a Master of Science degree programme in Juvenile Delinquency. Other than that, youth issues are discussed in several social work and sociology courses. A

number of research projects on Youth Violence, Indiscipline and Delinquency are being undertaken by postgraduate students.

In addition to its academic programmes at the PhD, Masters, Bachelor and Certificate levels, UTT also offers a bridging programme, the Pre-University Programme which targets youth who were not previously provided with an opportunity to pursue advanced studies. UTT will also soon offer teaching/training programmes in Criminology, Security and Public Safety at the certificate, diploma and bachelor levels; and research in the areas of Youth Violence and Delinquency is currently being undertaken through its Institute for Criminology and Public Safety.

**Child Protection**

*Children's Life Fund*

Legislation establishing a Children's Life Fund was passed in Trinidad and Tobago on November 24, 2010. This initiative was proposed by the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Children's Life Fund was born out of the view that the needs of children are central to human development. As such, the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago had endorsed the establishment of a CARICOM Children's Life Fund on the regional level an on the international stage, she urged the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as well as other international organizations and countries to support the LIFE Fund established by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago during her maiden speech at the 65th United Nations General Assembly. On November 23, 2010, it was reported by the Honourable Minister of Health that the Children's Life Fund had garnered $3.1 million in contributions.

In addition, Trinidad and Tobago became signatory to the 1990 World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991. These actions obligated this country to the formulation and implementation of a National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children, and to the taking of all the steps necessary in implementing the CRC in Trinidad and Tobago through the following initiatives:

→ Children's Legislation and the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

The Children's Authority Amendment Bill and the Children's Community Residences, Foster Homes and Nurseries Bill form part of a comprehensive Package of Children's Legislation for the care and protection of the children in Trinidad and Tobago.

→ Community Mediation Services

The nation's children have also been able to benefit from the establishment of Community Mediation Services. This service provides an alternative to litigation as attempts are made to resolve conflicts in the society. Parental Support Groups, the formation of which is encouraged by the Community Mediation Programme, aim at improving familial relationships by providing a mechanism to enhance the capacity of parents to manage difficult child relations.

→ Children's Homes

The Ministry of the People and Social Development remains committed to strengthening relationships with the institutions that work with children. As at the end of fiscal 2007/2008, the Ministry of the People and Social Development was committed to disbursing annual subventions to fourteen (14) Children's Homes and four (4) Homes that provide services in Family Life and Counselling.

→ Social Services Delivery System

These are intended to facilitate early intervention and improved access to social services, reduce time, and improve the overall experience of clients (including children) seeking social services

**Issues related to Drug Abuse**

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to pursuing drug demand and reduction strategies that will redound to the benefit of the nation; and to achieve this, collaborates with relevant social partners.

→ National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP)

The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) states its major objectives as being:

- To facilitate the development of Community Prevention Programmes to provide healthy alternatives for the population and to reduce those factors contributing to drug use;
- To promote and enhance Treatment and Rehabilitation services, including programmes for those addicts identified through the criminal justice system;
- To strengthen research to provide reliable information for policy and administrative decision making; and
- To ensure the efficient and effective development and conduct of programmes and projects aimed at reducing drug abuse

→ Empowerment Centre

The Piparo Empowerment Centre provides residential treatment and rehabilitation services for male drug addicts using the Therapeutic Community Model. The objectives of the programme are to provide clients with treatment and rehabilitation services towards their successful social rehabilitation and to provide a safe residential physical environment during clients' recovery period.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTs)

Trinidad and Tobago's National ICT Vision embodies the effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives that can facilitate cooperation between any combination of governments, businesses and individuals. Government will continue with the initiatives for telecommunications liberalisation, infrastructure and development; e-Government; e-Commerce; e-Health; e-Procurement; e-Justice and ICT related policy development and regulation.

One example of Trinidad and Tobago's drive toward diversification of the non-energy sector is the Tamana In-Tech Industrial and Technology Park. The Park will provide incubator facilities, research and training in Information Technology and will promote the expansion of downstream energy products and thereby expand the export base.

In the new fiscal year the Government pledged to introduce a Single Electronic Window (SEW) for Business Facilitation which will improve Trinidad and Tobago's international competitiveness by facilitating electronic trading and the transfer of information simultaneously thereby ensuring efficiency in the local trade and business facilitation process.

Government had transformed its online Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Business to Business Marketplace project, EnterpriseNeTT, from a pilot project to full implementation. It will provide a common space where buyers, sellers, investors, venture capitalists and their stakeholders can post and exchange products and intellectual capital in real time, and where substantial opportunities for business growth can be obtained. EnterpriseNeTT was launched in 2006, and to date, in excess of 1,500 businesses have been registered.

In addition, the Government has taken the decision to pursue the highest world ratings in ICT usage, so that citizens can access the systems and skills to benefit from advances in this area, in particular to engage with and do business with the public services. In an effort to achieve this goal a number of initiatives/programmes have been implemented. They are as follows:

→ *The Library Net Programme* - As at June 2009, 100 percent of libraries in Trinidad and Tobago were equipped with computers and free internet access

through this programme. These systems facilitate research and continuous learning for many citizens right in their communities.

→ *Knowledge, Innovation and Development (KID) Programme* – In 2008-2009, 339 primary schools and 11 special schools were provided with networked computer laboratories and approximately 600 primary school teachers were oriented in the use of computers and ICT in education. In order to ensure the goal of widespread connectivity in the primary and secondary education systems 190 primary schools and125 secondary schools were connected to the internet. Additionally, to assist the students in the utilization of technology, 778 primary and 532 secondary school teachers were trained in basic network administration in 2008 alone.

→ *Implementation of the National Broadband Action Plan* - There are 13 Internet Service Providers available to the population. Additionally, two new international submarine fibre optic cables landed in Trinidad, thereby effectively tripling the offshore bandwidth capacity. This caused a reduction in retail and leased line broadband prices for citizens

→ *Government Communications Backbone Project* – It serves to facilitate communications and information sharing among Government agencies and departments, by providing basic connectivity services such as email (audio, video and text), e-messaging, e-scheduling and internet access over a Wide Area Network (WAN). This project will result in significant time saved by citizens when doing business with the public service.

→ *ttconnect* - Through ttconnect online the e-Government Portal Project, information pertaining to 400 Government services is currently available.

→ *B2B eMarketplace* - The e-marketplace promotes trade - export sales and business development. It will thus help us diversify and expand our market and customer base through showcasing our products regionally and internationally at a significantly reduced cost.

## LABOUR RELATED ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

Issues pertaining to labour continue to be actively addressed on the Inter-American agenda with a very close nexus between the Summit of the Americas process and the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (IACML) of which Trinidad and Tobago was the Chair until October 2009 when this country passed the mantle of leadership to Argentina which will chair the XVI IACML for the period 2009 to 2011. During that period, Trinidad and Tobago will serve as a

member of the IACML troika – the executive authority of the Conference – which comprises the past, present and future Chairs of the IACML. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago was designated first Vice-Chair of the XVI IACML. Accordingly, while the obligations arising from Chairmanship of the IACML have been completed, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to play a leadership role in the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour and, in particular, be well-positioned to continue to promote implementation of the labour mandates of the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

The trends and commitments which emerged from the First and Second Summits of the Americas shaped the discussions of the Eleventh IACML held in Chile in 1998 and, at the highest level, labour was pivotal to the Fourth Summit held in Mar del Plata, Argentina on the theme "Creating Jobs to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance".

Issues related to labour and employment generation were divided into several sub-issues in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain and they are explained as follows:

*Reaffirming commitments to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*

The Ministry of Labour has sought to promote decent work through its on-going work in the social and economic sectors, such as:

- → Ratification and Implementation of International Labour Standards;
- → Enactment and Enforcement of Labour Legislation
- → Establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Authority and Agency
- → Action against Child Labour
- → Adoption of a National Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS
- → Enhancement of the Labour Inspection Function
- → Endorsement of a Work Programme at the Sixteenth IACML: Since 2001, one of the IACML's top priorities has been the generation of decent work and of decent working conditions, with stable, productive, well paid jobs and social security, in an environment characterized by liberty, equity, security, and human dignity.

The Ministry of the People and Social Development partners on a continuing basis with relevant local and international agencies to promote the rights of individuals to: enhanced opportunities for decent work; acceptable conditions of work, safe and healthy workplaces that are free from violence, harassment and discrimination, as well as the provision of opportunities for training and empowerment. Measures taken by the Ministry of Social Development include:

→ National Policy on Persons with Disabilities
→ National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS and National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2006-2010
→ ILO 144 Tripartite Committee

*Promoting the movement of enterprises and workers from the informal to the formal sector and Protecting the human rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status.*

→ *Protection of the human rights of migrant workers*: The commitment to protect the human rights of migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status is echoed in paragraph 25 of the Declaration of Port of Spain 2007 adopted at the XV IACML.

*Protecting all people, particularly women, children and adolescents, from all forms of trafficking in persons and sexual and economic exploitation as well as providing protection and attention to the victims with a Commitment towards families and society to protect the rights of children and adolescents.*

Actions taken by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in support of the ratification of the ILO Conventions on Child Labour:

→ ILO Convention No. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999
→ ILO Convention No. 138, Minimum Age Convention, 1973
→ International Instruments, Legislation and the Justice System

There are criminal, civil and administrative provisions in the laws of Trinidad and Tobago that address factors such as poverty and gender inequality that increases women's vulnerability to being trafficked. Such provisions include, but are not limited to:

→ The Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act (Chap. 45:51) (as amended)
→ The Married Persons Act (Chap. 45:50)
→ The Domestic Violence Act (No. 27 of 1999)
→ The Maternity Protection Act (No. 4 of 1998)
→ The Cohabitational Relationships Act (No. 30 of 1998)
→ The Family Law (Guardianship of Minors, Domicile and Maintenance) Act (Chap. 46:08)
→ The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act (No. 31 of 2000)
→ The Children's Authority Act

.9n' Trinidad and Tobago is a Party to the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (2000); and in 2007, ratified the *United Nations*

*Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.*

- → Implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children
- → Children's Legislation

*Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises*

The Enterprise Development Division is charged with the following responsibilities:

- → To develop policy and co-ordinate its implementation and make necessary intervention with the approval of the Minister to ensure that policy implementation is on course;
- → To provide advice and consultation to the Minister with regard to the different arms of the institutional structure;
- → To manage inter-institutional and inter-agency relationships;
- → To perform a supervisory role on behalf of the Minister by receiving and reviewing reports;
- → To monitor the performance of the small and micro enterprise (SME) sector, the National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO), the Small and Micro Enterprise Development Fund, the Small Enterprising Businesses Assocation or any other organization receiving Government subventions for SME development;
- → To address and resolve the following issues with the assistance and collaboration of NEDCO:
    - o availability and access to sources of funding
    - o integration of support programmes and services
    - o proliferation of agencies and the need for collaboration, co-ordination and/or rationalization among micro and small business assistance agencies
    - o development, streamlining and synchronization of policies, legislation and regulations that impact on the SME sector

Actions taken by Trinidad and Tobago in support of SMEs

- → Business Development Service and access to credit facility
- → Fair Share Programme
- → Greater access to Information on the Market
- → Cooperative Development
    - o Micro-Enterprise Loan Facility (MEL)
    - o Micro Enterprise Training and Development Grant (MEG)

- Poverty Reduction Programme

**EDUCATION**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is committed to implementing the mandates as outlined in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain - Fifth Summit of the Americas. Towards this end the MOE has been engaged in a comprehensive exercise to transform, expand and modernize the education sector. It should be underscored that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago distributed laptop computers to all Form 1 Secondary school students with a view to enable every child, regardless of social standing, to have access to reliable and current information on any subject matter which laptops would be able to provide.

The following initiatives are also carried out by the MOE to promote the Government's developmental pillars of *People-centred development* and *A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy – Building on the Native Genius of Our People:*

- The formalization and expansion of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Sector to provide quality early education to 3 to 4 year olds with the goal of universal ECCE by 2012.
- The construction of the state-of-the-art ECCE centres to be in alignment with the new ECCE Curriculum, 24 centres have already been opened and 50 more will be open in 2010.
- A robust school construction programme – 5 new Primary schools have been opened and are under construction.
- 11 new Secondary schools are under construction.
- The Primary school Curriculum is being revised
- A modernized curriculum for Forms I to V is being implemented at the Secondary level.
- New subject offerings of Physical Education; Visual and Performing Arts and Technology Education are now offered at the Secondary Level.
- Additional opportunities are available to Secondary school students to pursue Technical Vocational Education leading to the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs).
- Wider opportunities are being created through the establishment of the National Open School of Trinidad and Tobago since 2007.
- Expanded access for Special Needs Students – the Ministry of Education now pays fees for children in private special schools and provides a further subvention to these schools to cover administrative costs.
- Literacy and Numeracy are being strengthened through the Centre of Excellence in Teacher Training programme and the teaching of Reading.

- The Ministry of Education participates in Quality benchmarking to measure Trinidad and Tobago's progress against other leading education system.
- ICTs are being integrated throughout the system from ECCE to Primary and Secondary.
- Teacher preparation is being conducted in partnership with the Universities – the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and from ECCE to Primary; teachers are being trained to the professional level of a Bed degree. The in-service Diploma in Education that is delivered by the School of Education (SoE) of the UWI on behalf of the Ministry of Education is one mechanism by which the Ministry achieves the objectives described.
- In 2008, the Ministry embarked on a training programme leading to a Bachelors Degree in the teaching of Physical Education. The programme is being delivered by the Sports and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) UWI, St. Augustine in collaboration with the SoE.
- In response to the MOE's thrust to include Spanish included in the primary curriculum, the SoE, UWI has developed two courses for the professional development of teachers of Spanish as a foreign language in the primary school. The SoE expects to include these courses among its offerings in the upcoming academic year.
- The SoE, UWI, through its Master of Education (Curriculum), Master of Education (Youth Guidance) and Master of Education (Science Education) options continues to support the MOE by providing trained personnel who can contribute to fulfilling the Ministry's mandate.
- Structured competency-focused training conducted during July/August each year for all teachers.
- School management and Administration being strengthened and fortified – Principals being trained in School Administration and Leadership; structures revised to include Heads of Department; Deans and Senior Teachers. 23 pilot Secondary schools have 2 positions of Vice Principal – 1 for Administration and 1 for Curriculum Supervision.
- Having achieved Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education focus is now on strengthening the student support to education – through the provision of textbooks, school meals, transport and psycho social support.
- Decentralization of the Ministry of Education – Head Office and District Offices, to take quality service closer to the schools.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The responsibility for science and technology now falls within the scope of the University of Trinidad and Tobago and will be addressed in general terms.

### Invention and Innovation

→ Prime Minister's Awards for Innovation and Invention

This awards scheme seeks to encourage technological creativity by recognising and rewarding outstanding achievements in the areas of innovation and invention.

→ Creativity Vacation Camps
→ Go Creative Project

Funded by the Organization of American States (OAS), the project seeks to foster a spirit of innovation in the region's youth through the staging of 'technopreneurship' camps and invention competitions for students, ages 7 to 17 years.

→ Gen Y Foresight Study

It was recognised that Generation Y (youth between the ages of 14-28) had a key role to play in the realization of this developmental goal as they would constitute a critical component of our society and labour force in 2020 and beyond. NEXT Corporation was employed to undertake a foresight study aimed at identifying innovative programmes that could allow Generation Y (Gen Y) to make a more positive contribution towards the nation's advancement.

### Science Popularization

→ *Sci-TechKnoFest 2008*

The festival whose theme was Health and Wellness attracted over 55,000 visitors. Based on a 10% visitor sample size, 68% of the visitors comprised school groups, 22% families and 10% other. Of this sample, 45% stated that they had been to past festivals and 87% said there was an improvement over previous ones.

→ *Camps, Special Exhibits & Workshops*

Each year the National Science Centre (NSC) mounts a number of special exhibitions to commemorate various UN days. These displays provide an opportunity to educate visitors about current topics and issues in science, as well provide a platform for engaging visitors in specially designed hands-on activities that teach related science concepts. In 2007 / 2008, NSC observed World Environment Day (June 5$^{th}$), World Space Week (October 4$^{th}$ -10$^{th}$), International

Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters (October 8th), World Food Day (October 16th) and World AIDS Day (Nov 27th - Dec 2nd, 2007). Other special attractions at the NSC included the Ins and Outs of Digestion and Astronomy Night featuring telescope viewings and planetarium shows for the visiting public.

→ *Outreach Initiatives*

Outreach programmes are a part of NIHERST's commitment to ensure that science education is available to everyone. With its slogan, "Science for All", travelling science exhibitions that feature hands-on activities and 1-day workshops are taken to communities and venues around the country. The Outreach programme focuses on rural communities.

→ *Sector Foresighting*

The 2006/2007 survey on innovation in the food and beverage sector was completed. It provides insights into the innovation process and will assist decision-makers in developing policies to create the environment and incentives to catalyse growth and innovation in the industry.

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AVAILABILITY

The Summit of the Americas Process, under the leadership of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, with the assistance of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Summit Coordinators, developed and implemented an Inter-American agenda for the development of the Americas. Agriculture was, however, not included in the agenda for development until the Third Summit of the Americas that was held in Quebec City in 2001. This was mainly due to the efforts of the Ministers of Agriculture. The Hemispheric Agenda in Agriculture is pursued through joint hemispheric action mainly at the Meetings of Ministers of Agriculture.

Emanating from the mandates of the Third Summit of the Americas, there was a decision to pursue the mandates for joint action through the development of a plan which was launched in the 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in The Americas. The Plan provides a framework for bringing about the changes required to achieve the Shared vision 2015 and it is implemented and updated by the countries through strategic actions contained in the biennial hemispheric agendas and the measures for their implementation and follow-up as defined by the Ministerial meetings. Further arising out of the Quebec Summit, the Heads of State and Governments agreed to the system of ministerial meetings as a mechanism for the implementation of their mandates. They address the strategic issues and the specific mandates related to agriculture.

Following hereunder are the relevant actions required by the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Resources for the implementation of the commitments arising from the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

**Progress made in implementing the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement, Guatemala 2007**

Regarding the 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda, the Ministers and Secretaries decided to include 11 strategic actions to supplement the already existing 51 Strategic Actions previously defined at the Panama 2003 and Guayaquil 2005 Ministerial Meetings. The Strategic Actions, combined with the 12 Purposes of the AGRO Matrix, provide a frame of reference for identifying the national efforts required to implement the current Hemispheric Agenda.

Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on a number of key strategic measures aimed at repositioning the agriculture sector. The Ministry of Food Poduction, Land and Marine Resources has sought to widen the definition of agriculture from primarily that of improving food security, to encompass the value chain, including primary production, processing, marketing, food services, agri-tourism and agro-entertainment. A collaborative public-private sector focus is envisioned in the *Transformation Plan for the Agriculture Sector, Agri-culture to Agri-business, Strategies for Increasing Agricultural Production for Food and Nutrition Security and Competitiveness in Trinidad and Tobago* which now provides the basis for day to day operational programming.

Trinidad and Tobago has also embarked on an accompanying Development Strategy that promotes family/small farms as well as commercial farming enterprises - the Small Farms Programme and Commercial (Large) Farming Programme; its Land Distribution Programme is one of the initiatives to increase domestic agricultural production by making land accessible to those who lack land for cultivation, through an open and transparent process. This is assisted by the National Agri-business Development Programme (NADP) being implemented by the Trinidad and Tobago Agri-business Association (TTABA), with a focus on the development of an agribusiness sector that is private sector driven, competitive and adds value to primary production.

**Promoting competitive rural enterprises**

→ Land Distribution Programme – The Land Distribution Programme is an initiative aimed at increasing domestic agricultural production by making land accessible to those who lack land for cultivation has instituted new governance arrangements to facilitate the timely assessment of applications for state lands and for the distribution of agricultural leases.

→ Small Farms Programme – There exists a Development Strategy that promotes family/small farms as well as commercial farming enterprises. The Small Farms Programme is one of the results of the restructuring of Caroni (1975) Limited where former sugar workers are granted access to 2-acre plots. To date, leases have been offered to approximately 3,628 former Caroni employees. Farmers have been provided with more affordable leases (state land holdings of 10 hectares or less attract specially reduced rates) as well as reduced annual rents on small to medium parcels of state agricultural lands. In addition, house spots on agricultural parcels of 5,000 square feet or less are rent-free.

→ Improved infrastructure - focus on the provision of agricultural access roads and bridges throughout the country; establishment of water management and flood control measures which entails irrigation systems, installing pumps and eliminating salt water intrusion.

→ Provisions of Agricultural Incentives - a range of incentives are offered to farmers for land preparation, purchase of vehicles, machinery and equipment as well as duty free concessions for agricultural inputs. A revised and enhanced Agricultural Incentive Package is being drafted (a mixture of fiscal measures such as guaranteed prices, rebates on vehicles, machinery and equipment etc. and non-fiscal measures aimed at increasing output, efficiency and competitiveness in the agricultural sector.)

**Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness**

→ Establishment of Commercial (Large) Farms – Government has opened up investment in the sector under joint venture arrangements with the private sector through the granting of leases for large blocks of lands (100 acres or more) for production purposes. It is expected that the Large farms will serve as a catalyst for demonstrating state of the art techniques and technologies to the traditional farming community; contribute to food security initiatives in terms of livestock and livestock products, vegetables, legumes and root crops; and build capacity for agro-processing.

→ Agricultural Access Roads – this is an on-going programme of road improvements for the agricultural sector in support of the increased investment in the sector. This serves to contribute to the development of agricultural farms in rural communities across Trinidad.

→ Trinidad and Tobago has initiated the establishment of a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (NAHFSA) by appointing a Technical Committee with assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Agriculture (IICA) to review all the issues and make recommendations to establish a NAHSFA. This Committee has completed its Report.

→ Government under the ambit of the National Agri-business Development Programme (NADP) is supporting and encouraging development along the entire value chain in the production process with a focus on the promotion of value added products using local raw materials.

→ The concept of the Farmers' Market is being promoted as a way of reducing the length of and price spread along the marketing chain by undertaking direct distribution in the local market through interface of farmers and consumers. As of April 2009, the National Agricultural Marketing and Developing Company (NAMDEVCO) had established seven (7) such markets at various communities in Trinidad.

**Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture**

→ Agriculture Ranger Squad (ARS) – There exists the establishment of an Agriculture Ranger Squad to treat exclusively with praedial larceny, identified as a major disincentive to agriculture in this country. The ARS will be deployed in key agricultural districts with powers to reduce the incidence of praedial larceny of livestock and crops.

→ Contract farming – Aimed at improving the efficiency of farmers through coordination of production and use of resources. The Trinidad and Tobago Agri-business Association has provided contracts to farmers who are members of farmers' organizations, groups and associations for the supply of fresh produce at guaranteed prices. Approximately 462 acres of cultivated farm land have been contracted.

→ Formation of Farmers' Associations, Cooperatives and Commodity Groups – Under the National Agribusiness Development Programme being implemented by the Trinidad and Tobago Agribusiness Association (TTABA) assistance has been provided to farmers for the formation of groups and associations.

→ The Transformation Plan for the Agriculture Sector aims to move the sector from agri-culture to agri-business with emphasis on an agribusiness

approach to agricultural development. The Plan identifies strategies for harnessing the potential of the agriculture sector to enable it to more adequately cater to the needs of all citizens for affordable and nutritious food.

→ Demonstration Farms - The Tucker Valley farm is in production and harvesting mode on an initial 200 acres, established through a Technical Cooperation Agreement between the governments of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago. The aim is to develop a farm business model for management of farms and supervision of agricultural workers. The PCS Nitrogen Demonstration Farm and Training Centre, another joint private/public sector partnership, is also operational with a focus on facilitating the transfer of new technology and modern Farm Management techniques to farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs.

**Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas**

Sustainable fisheries management efforts have been pursued through stock assessment, research, surveillance and enforcement of the laws. With respect to forestry, the Community based Forestry and Agro-Forestry Reforestation Programmes have the dual benefits of protecting the environment as well as providing rural communities with employment opportunities. As at June 2009, approximately 57,000 tree seedlings were produced and 23,000 seedlings transplanted.

**From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management**

Government has pursued the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies. It has become necessary to concentrate on biological control methods for pests in order to protect the environment from the effects of extensive use of pesticides, to meet export standards of pesticide residues on product and to lower the cost of agricultural production in the longer run.

Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on the conservation of the plant diversity aspect of the national environment, including the protection of endemic species; the development of a national plant biodiversity database; appropriate landscape management, including policy planning and legislative review in respect of recreation, resource management and the maintenance of indigenous floricultural germplasm.

Implementing a Comprehensive Crop Biodiversity Conservation Programme – the main objective is the development of the institutional capacity to adopt the recommendations of the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP).

Officers continue to be trained in such areas as germplasm database design, plant morphological characterization and plant conservation.

**Participating in building an institutional environmental framework**

→ Trinidad and Tobago has been promoting organic agriculture to reduce the use of chemicals and promote environmental sustainability. One of the Large Commercial Farms will be used to demonstrate this method to farmers.

→ Continuous training and retraining has been provided to the farming community in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

→ Investment in fisheries monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of fisheries regulations aimed primarily at management of the fisheries sub-sector and associated resources in a sustainable manner. A new Surveillance and Enforcement Unit was launched to monitor the marine resources while the Community-based Aquaculture Programme is aimed at developing an alternative source of fish protein and so relieve some of the pressures on the marine resources.

**Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity**

→ The "Grow What You Eat and Eat What You Grow" campaign was aimed at encouraging citizens to positively impact on National Food and Nutrition Security. Seeds for popular crops such as corn, pigeon peas, ochro and pumpkin were distributed to citizens who were encouraged to start home gardens and grow some of the food that they consume.

**Advancing learning and expertise in the chain**

→ National Agricultural Entrepreneurial Awards Programme – The aim is to encourage the new thrust in the sector. Agricultural Entrepreneur Competition is aimed at bringing to the forefront, highlighting and rewarding those persons who exemplify entrepreneurial spirit.

**Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities**

→ The Government's Land Distribution Programme is one of the initiatives to increased domestic agricultural production by making land accessible to those who lack land for cultivation.

→ Small farmers continue to benefit from the Agricultural Incentive Programme, the Extension Programmes as well as institutional support services such as Artificial Insemination which has been expanded to include goat, sheep and rabbit, rebates on engines (for fisher folk) and soil testing services etc.

→ The Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA) targets youth with an interest in agriculture for training on all aspects of agriculture.

→ The Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) reduced its lending rate from 12% to 6% and for former Caroni workers to 5% and adjusted collateral requirements to facilitate farmers. Government increased allocations to the Bank from TT $75Mn to TT$100Mn for fiscal year 2009.

**Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action**

→ Through it efforts, the Government has been promoting policies that support access to resources such as land, credit, market information and other services.

→ The strengthening of multisectoral public-private sector participation/coordination through activities of the TTABA has been pursued, whose focus has been on the organization of private sector stakeholders – with the establishment of Fourteen (14) Community/Farmers' Associations comprising some 1039 farmers established for contract farming as well as twelve (12) Commodity Associations.

→ The Tucker Valley Demonstration Farm and the PCS Nitrogen Model Farm and Agricultural Resource Training Centre are already in productive and harvesting modes and training activities have commenced at both these farms. These are joint public-private initiatives.

**Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain**

→ Establishment of cooperatives/associations/farmers' groups

→ Under the NADP and through collaboration between TTABA, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) a number of food crops have been identified and developed specifically for the production of value added products. The products already on the local market are: frozen sweet potato fries, cubes,

scallops, frozen cassavas fries and cubes; fresh and frozen coconut water and pawpaw barbeque sauce.

→ Established Food Prices Council to address comprehensively from a supply side perspective the level of prices in the economy, in particular, the increase in prices in the food sector

**Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life**

→ Trinidad and Tobago was host to the Second Round Table for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy held in March, 2009. This was a gathering of 300 delegates from 29 international cocoa producing and consuming countries with one of the issues being addressed being that of guidelines for best practices in the cocoa value chain.

→ Through the National Agricultural Marketing Development Company (NAMDEVCO), there have been research and development projects for increasing productivity through MOU/Research Agreements with Research Institution such as CARDI, CLAYUCA in Columbia, CIP in Peru, EMBRAPA in Brazil and Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences in China.

→ A Technical Cooperation Agreement was signed with the government of Cuba to facilitate implementation of the Tucker Valley Large Farm Project which envisions the development of a farm business model for management of farms.

→ The government has placed focus on the development of the agri-food sector such as the rehabilitation of the Cocoa Industry and the establishment of a Mandatory Citrus Quality Tree Programme

→ A National Agricultural Advisory Commission had been established to advise, monitor, evaluate and report to the Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs on all matters relating to the preparation and implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security and Agribusiness Competitiveness Plan. This Commission will also seek to address prices of inputs for agriculture.

→ The Ministry has engaged the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the assessment of the Extension Services in Trinidad and Tobago, with a view to offering recommendations to improve its services. The programme

entitled Excellence in Extension Delivery is designed to equip extension officers to provide quality customer services.

**Access to Safe and Nutritious Food**

Specific actions are being pursued for adequate and timely access to safe and nutritious food:

→ The establishment of a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (NAHFSA) by appointing a Technical Committee with assistance from the FAO and IICA to review all the issues and make recommendations to establish a NAHSFA. This Committee has completed its Report

→ Promoting integrated environmental management

→ Government has pursued the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies. It has become necessary to concentrate on biological control methods for pests in order to protect the environment from the effects of extensive use of pesticides, to meet export standards of pesticide residues on product and to lower the cost of agricultural production in the longer run.

→ Government has embarked on the conservation of the plant diversity aspect of the national environment, including the protection of endemic species; the development of a national plant biodiversity database; appropriate landscape management, including policy planning and legislative review in respect of recreation, resource management; and the maintenance of indigenous floricultural germplasm.

→ Implementing a Comprehensive Crop Biodiversity Conservation Programme – the main objective is the development of the institutional capacity to adopt the recommendations of the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP). Officers continue to be trained in such areas as germplasm database design, plant morphological characterization and plant conservation.

Specific actions being pursued as enunciated in The Transformation Plan for the Sector regarding Strategies for increasing Agricultural Production for food and Nutrition Security include:

→ Ensure food sovereignty and security through ensuring that a minimum percentage of all the food groups will be met from local production.

→ Promote economic diversification and expansion based on the development of competitive industries through value-added product development for local consumption as well as export.
→ Support rural development through increased infra-structure and employment creation.

→ Support for the national health improvement strategy through increased consumption of locally- grown complex and high carbohydrate /high fibre foods, increased fresh produce and outdoor activity & entertainment and introduce and operationalize NAHFSA, (National Agriculture Health & Food Safety Authority).

→ Support for our tourism strategy based on product differentiation through greater utilization of national cuisine promotion of agro-tourism and agro-entertainment.

→ Support for our social development strategy through engaging the rural poor in agricultural production and food preservation as a key component of poverty alleviation strategy.

The Ministry of Health is also deeply involved in all initiatives for access to safe and nutritious food. The Ministry of Health is presently in collaborative discussions with the Ministry of Food Production and other impacting agencies to develop a national food safety strategy and a model for the creation of a national agency to ensure the effective functioning of an integrated system of food and health safety in the region. Moreover, the Ministry of Health, through the following departments is also responsible for ongoing monitoring and inspection as it pertains to food safety:

→ The Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division – which is responsible for: ensuring safe quality of an equitable standard for use by consumers of food, drugs, cosmetics and medical services; and providing technological and laboratory services in the areas of food, drug, cosmetics, medical devices, pesticides and toxic chemicals.

→ The Trinidad Public Health Laboratory – which is responsible for the testing of food specimens from food establishments, with the aim of protecting the health of the public and improving the prevention, control and treatment of communicable diseases

- → The Public Health Inspectorate – which monitors the regulation of public and environmental health standards, including food safety, incorporating activities such as food inspections at Ports and inspections of establishments that prepare or sell food

- → The Veterinary Public Health Department – which monitors and inspects foods from animals to assist in the prevention and control of diseases from animals

- → National Surveillance Unit – which has responsibility for investigating outbreaks of food poisoning, etc.

In addition the Ministry of Health collaborates with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) in the development of guidelines for labelling and packaging of foodstuff.

**HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES**

Apart from the issue of access to safe and nutritious food, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has taken the lead on the following health-related issues in Trinidad and Tobago:

- → Universal Access to Quality, Comprehensive Health Care
- → Implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Neonatal Health
- → Reduction of the Burden of Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs) through the Promotion of Preventive and Control Strategies
- → The Establishment of National Commissions for NCDs and the Incorporation of Surveillance of CNCDs and Risk Factors into Health Information Reporting Systems
- → Reducing Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Use
- → Renewal of Primary Health Care and Access to Comprehensive Health Care
- → Implementing the PAHO Regional Strategy on Nutrition in Health and Development
- → Adequate Nutrition for Children Under Five and Other Vulnerable Groups
- → Implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR)
- → Halting and Reversing the Spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015

**Universal Access to Quality, Comprehensive Health Care**

Universal access to quality comprehensive health care is one of the main priorities of the MOH. In this regard, the MOH is in the process of developing a National Health Service (NHS) which is essentially a system through which health care in Trinidad and Tobago will be financed and managed. When fully developed, the NHS would ensure universal access to an essential package of health services in both the public and private health sector. In other words the patient will have a provider of choice.

**Health Infrastructure Development**

Access to quality, comprehensive health care is also being extended through the Ministry's ambitious infrastructure programme. Under this programme, the Ministry will substantially upgrade the existing stock of hospitals and health centres, as well as construct new hospitals that will make health services more accessible to a wider cross section of the population. To complement the expansion of secondary care services, there are at present approximately one hundred and three (103) Primary Health facilities in Trinidad and Tobago. These primary care facilities are strategically cited to ensure that even the most remote areas can access these services.

**Implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Neonatal Health**

The Ministry of Health continues to work towards improving outcomes in the area of neonatal and infant mortality, mortality in the under-five age group and maternal mortality. Strategies include reassessing the issues that contribute to mortality, updating equipment and technology in the health facilities and training. A Maternal and Child Health Manual was updated. This manual provides guidelines for health care personnel on procedures and processes in the area of maternal and child health. Input was provided by PAHO, the Nursing Council of T&T and other key stakeholders.

**Reduction of the Burden of Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs) through the Promotion of Preventive and Control Strategies**

The Ministry of Health is addressing the burgeoning health problem of CNCDs through an approach that incorporates prevention, treatment and care. Some of the initiatives being pursued by the Ministry are as follows:

→ CNCD Technical Advisory Committee

The National CNCD Technical Advisory Committee is an inter-sectoral body comprising public sector, private sector and civil society representation that was established in September 2008 to advise on matters related to CNCD prevention,

treatment and control. Specifically, the Technical Advisory Committee is responsible for making recommendations on:

- The development of a unified policy direction for national CNCD programmes, strategies and activities
- Fostering intra- and intersectoral collaboration in the promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Promoting coordination of efforts on health promotion, planning, service delivery, regulation, financing, resource mobilisation and research in relation to CNCD control.

→ Health Promotion and Education

Health promotion and education are preventive strategies aimed at reducing the risk factors for CNCDs such as Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes Mellitus, Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer), Hypertensive Diseases and Cerebrovascular Disease. These risk factors include insufficient physical activity, inadequate diet and obesity, abuse of alcohol and tobacco use.

The Ministry has also taken measures to improve our health services, both at the primary and secondary health level. At the primary level, in accordance with the CARICOM Declaration of Port of Spain, the Ministry of Health developed a comprehensive plan for the screening and management of chronic diseases. This plan entails:

- Scaling up screening and management of chronic disease patients

- Promoting healthy weight through a variety of interventions, including using the wellness centres at our community health centres to implement Well-weight Management programmes to assist overweight and obese clients and community members to achieve a healthy weight.

- Advocating abstinence for smoking and alcohol

- Promoting physical activity

- On Saturday 12th September 2009, the Ministry of Health celebrated Caribbean Wellness Day. This was an initiative of Health Promotions of the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC).

**The Establishment of National Commissions for NCDs and the Incorporation of Surveillance of CNCDs and Risk Factors into Health Information Reporting Systems**

The National CNCD Technical Advisory Committee was established to provide strategic support to address CNCDs in Trinidad and Tobago. One of the main mandates of the Committee is to promote the development of a National Strategic Plan on the control of CNCDs, incorporating strategic actions across a broad spectrum of disciplines within and outside the health sector, including agriculture, education, housing, social development, planning, labour and employment, and the environment, among others; and focusing on risk reduction measures such as improving diet and nutrition, increasing physical activity, as well as obesity and alcohol control.

**Reducing Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Use**

The Ministry of Health is represented on a drug advisory committee led by the Ministry of National Security that seeks to reduce the prevalence of drug abuse and illicit drug use in the society. In addition, the Ministry of Health, through the RHAs, provides psychiatric care for patients including those that are subjected to substance abuse. The Ministry of Health also provides annual subventions to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that provide rehabilitative care to persons afflicted with drug abuse.

**Renewal of Primary Health Care and Access to Comprehensive Health Care**

The MOH established a Working Committee to review the Primary Health Care System in Trinidad and Tobago in April, 2007.

→ Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP)

Through the CDAP programme, the population has increased access to a list of essential drugs to treat with chronic disease. The CDAP programme was started in 2003 with the primary aim of reducing the cost of health care of chronic disease patients by providing the population with free easily accessible medication to treat with chronic non-communicable diseases.

**Implementing the PAHO Regional Strategy on Nutrition in Health and Development**

The Ministry of Health is guided by the World Health Organization (WHO) Strategy on diet, physical activity and health as well as the PAHO Strategy on NCD Prevention and Control.

→ Adequate Nutrition for Children Under Five and Other Vulnerable Groups

The health centres in the public health sector provide nutrition services where the weight of children are screened and monitored for nutritional deficiencies. Parents are also provided with counselling and where nutrition deficiencies are detected, the child is referred to a Nutritionist or to the Paediatric Clinic. These children are then subjected to closer monitoring at the health centre.

**Implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR)**

An implementation plan has been submitted to Cabinet to ensure compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR). PAHO has been providing support and this plan is inter-sectoral, with input from the Ministry of Health and other agencies. Some aspects of the plan have already begun to be implemented, such as increased surveillance at airports.

This country has committed to following the mandates of International Health Regulations (IHR) developed by the WHO. The necessary systems and structures are being put in place to prevent, control and manage communicable diseases and diseases monitored by the IHR, including emerging or re-emerging diseases. The A H1N1 Influenza is an example of a new or emerging disease that is being monitored according to IHR protocols. Other diseases such as yellow fever and malaria are also monitored. The Ministry's surveillance capacity is also being developed and the Ministry has expressed its commitment to this.

Surveillance has been heightened in view of the A H1N1 pandemic. The Ministry of Health has signed an MOU with the UK for a Health Information Management System, which would enhance surveillance and data management. Staff is being trained or re-tooled to deal with emerging and re-emerging diseases. Staff has been sensitized about the IHR 2005, which are the updated IHR).

**Halting and Reversing the Spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015**

One of the primary objectives of the MOH is to facilitate the reduction in the rate of HIV infection and the number of deaths from AIDS in Trinidad and Tobago. This is being achieved through the execution of programmes aimed at reducing the levels of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS, promoting safe and healthy sexual behaviours among the general population, mitigating the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS on persons infected and affected in Trinidad and Tobago, and integrating the treatment of HIV/AIDS into the health care system.

The following are examples of initiatives aimed at reducing the levels of Mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS

- The Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Programme occurs at all public sector antenatal clinics and there are Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Coordinators available to monitor progress of the HIV exposed infants and mothers in all Regional Health Authorities
- All HIV exposed infants are treated at birth, (the number treated in 2008 was 170)
- Pregnant women enrolled in all public sector antenatal clinics are offered tests for HIV and free access to anti-retroviral treatment is available for all those that are HIV positive
- HIV infected babies are provided with replacement infant formula for a period of 24 months
- Dried Blood Spot Testing, a new screening strategy to determine the HIV status for HIV exposed infants was introduced in June 2008. The number of babies tested since was 98 with 7 positive cases.

The MOH will intensify the promotion of safe and healthy sexual behaviours by increasing the population's awareness of its HIV status. This would be achieved by making visits to rapid testing sites in all of the RHAs.

In addition, the MOH aims to reduce the incidence of HIV infections through the development of a condom management plan, the development of an HIV plan for the prison services, the development of national Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Policy and Guidelines, the implementation of prevention intervention strategies among youths and the development of an integrated TB/HIV plan.

## CULTURE

### Cultural Diversity

Culture and attitudes of Trinidad and Tobago are conceptualized as the rhythm and catalyst for growth and change. In recognition of its responsibility for supporting and guiding the development of the various manifestations of our culture, Trinidad and Tobago executes this mandate through:

- Support for the work of cultural and religious organizations, national cultural organizations and deserving individuals
- The development and implementation of policies in the culture sector
- The management of Trinidad and Tobago's National Carnival Celebrations
- The preservation and management of our National Heritage
- The conceptualization and management of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra and the soon to be launched National Theatre Company.

The following are the actions undertaken by this country, through the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, in fulfilling its mandate on culture as articulated in the Declaration of Commitment of Port-of-Spain.

- Government's Tax Incentive Regime for Philanthropy and Investment in the Arts reflects its commitment in the provision of policy to guide the promotion of culture.

- Over the past years Trinidad and Tobago has invested its fair share into the Caribbean premier Festival of the Arts, *Carifesta*. After hosting Carifesta V in 1992, Trinidad and Tobago continued to provide support for the development of the arts in the Caribbean by hosting Carifesta VI and IX as well as participating in Carifesta VII in St. Kitts, Carifesta VIII in Suriname and Carifesta X in Guyana in 2008.

- The Open School for the Arts which was re-named the Community Cultural Training Programme in 2007 was designed to offer quality training to budding artists via a collaborative arrangement with major stakeholder organizations in the arts. Community organizations assist in management of the venues and sourcing of participants, whilst the national bodies design the curricula and provide the tutors for the various disciplines. Courses offered include:

→ Event Management
→ Technical Theatre Arts

→ Musical literacy

→ Drama

→ Dance

→ Indian Music

→ Welding for Panmen

→ Song writing

→ Wire bending

→ Drum playing

→ *Ramajay* in Art and Visual Excellence

- Government's commitment to the development of culture and its belief in its potential as a significant player in national and regional development is demonstrated through its creation of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra, the Divine Echoes and the soon to be launched National Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

  The repertoire of these organizations include classical, calypso, soca music amongst other genres. Among the featured instruments used by this cultural movement is the newly invented G-Pan developed at the University of the West Indies.

- Nelson Island which was deemed a Heritage Site in 2002 has, over the recent years undergone continued development including the construction of a jetty, upgrade of toilet facilities and restoration of historical buildings on the island. The site is now being managed by the National Trust.

- As part of its national thrust to preserve its cultural heritage the Division of Culture is currently digitizing its collection of works of icons and events such as Mighty Duke, Sparrow, Kitchener, the Chowtal Singing Competition 1978, interviews with pan pioneers and other such works stored in the cultural archives.

  Additionally, the Division is adopting a new approach to the management of the Carnival Institute as part of its preservation programmme.

- The Prime Minister's Best Village Programme has molded the skills and developed the expertise of many of our citizens in the performing arts, sports, the preparation of local foods and knowledge of our folk traditions.

- The development of a project to conduct a baseline survey identifying all our national heritage material and developing strategies for collecting, documenting, recording, displaying or disseminating the information.

  On completion, this project will lay the foundation for the new strategies that will support the development of cultural industries.

The National Academy for the Performing Arts was completed and used in November 2009 as a major venue for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The performance facilities are managed by the Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism and it also serves as a teaching academy managed by UTT which offers short intensive courses and professional training as well as one (1) year certificates and two (2) year diplomas in the areas of:

- Music
- Music and Entertainment Technology
- Stage Management and Production Management and
- Four (4) year Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in the areas of Dance, Music, Acting and Design, Technology and Management.

Many of the courses concentrate on a Caribbean approach to these arts.

## PROMOTING ENERGY SECURITY

It is recognized that energy is an essential resource needed to improve the standard of living of citizens of the Americas. With this in mind, the energy industry is the primary driver of economic activity in Trinidad and Tobago. Special attention must be paid to the diversification of energy matrices by increasing the contribution of renewal energy sources to economic growth. This, therefore, highlights the call to encourage the development of diverse renewable energy sources and technologies. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago also commits to the promotion of cleaner energy and the development and implementation of voluntary corporate social responsibility. There must also be cooperation to improve the security, safety, quality, reliability and protection of critical energy infrastructure and supply networks.

One hundred years after the first commercial oil well was completed, Trinidad and Tobago has, over the last twenty five years, succeeded in creating a world class, globally competitive natural gas industry.

### ENERGY SECURITY

Trinidad and Tobago continues to support regional interconnection initiatives for use of Natural Gas. In this regard, the Government is supportive of the private-led Eastern Caribbean Gas Pipeline (ECGP), which, essentially, seeks to replace the use of diesel and fuel oil. This concept of undersea network to supply gas to several small Caribbean markets is another prong in the business strategy. This initiative also offers the potential for diversifying energy sources and reducing costs. Trinidad and Tobago sees this proposal as an attempt to assist its less-fortunate neighbours. The major benefits of the ECGP are as follows:

- → The provision of natural gas to the Caribbean region at predictable non-volatile prices;
- → The integration of the Eastern Caribbean through infrastructure development;
- → The deepening of opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago business expansion and development in the Eastern Caribbean; and
- → The opportunity for broad Caribbean participation in the Energy Sector.

Cooperation is also encouraged in improving the security, safety, quality, reliability and protection of our critical energy infrastructure and supply networks, including regional interconnection networks where feasible and useful. In this context, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, together with the Ministry of National Security, and in collaboration with international experts, have conducted the first phase of a Critical Infrastructure Protection Programme. Further activity on this matter is ongoing as the need for a long-term action plan is evident.

**ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Since 1964, Trinidad and Tobago has been utilizing clean-burning Natural Gas exclusively, for electricity generation. With regard to energy efficiency practices, we are now switching from Single-cycle power generation operation, to that of Combined-Cycle.

Presently, existing generation plants are predominantly simple cycle gas turbines (GTs) and gas fired boiler steam turbines (STs) with a thermal efficiency averaging 25%. The strategy is to have a generation expansion plan that will use high efficiency generation (over 40%) operated as combine cycle.
Further fuel economies in generation will be achieved through:

- → The use of these new high efficient machines in combined cycle for base load (mainly industrial load).
- → The cycling of less efficient plant to follow load peaks.
- → The introduction of Demand Side Management through tariffs as well as incentives for the use of Renewable Energy Sources

Further, it is the intention of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to increase the number of service stations retailing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) throughout the country in order to promote an environmentally friendly, cleaner and cheaper fuel which will also reduce transportation costs to the benefit of commuters and the national economy. As the number of service stations offering CNG increases, the Government will be able to reduce the subsidy on gas as a

more economical source of fuel will be available to its citizens. The Government will also support the cost of CNG conversion Kits as well as the importation of CNG ready vehicles. The applicable taxes and duties on the CNG equipment will also be waived.

In an effort to achieve the goals specified for the revitalization of the CNG Programme within two (2) years, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries established a Team comprising representatives from the National Gas Company (NGC), the National Petroleum Marketing Company (NPMC) and the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) to develop a programme for the expansion of the CNG station network to support a shift to Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs) and to advise on the key requirements for sustainability and successful implementation of the plan.

The team concluded that an achievable target for conversions is the replacement of forty percent (40%) of the projected liquid transport fuel sales with CNG by 2015. The plan recommends targeting the high specific consumption vehicles, and achieving conversion of 23% (113,000 NGVs) of the projected 2015 vehicle population in Trinidad and Tobago.

In order to achieve the target, the Government recognizes that it must make initial investment in CNG infrastructure. Notwithstanding this, in all countries that successfully implemented programs of this magnitude, the most critical component for success was the establishment a dedicated Team/Entity with responsibility for the development and execution of the Programme.

The proposed implementation programme is phased over the period 2011 – 2015 and will result in a gradual replacement of liquid transportation fuels, increasing from 8% in the first year to 40% in 2015. Different strategies will be utilised to achieve different targets of conversion to NGVs for the different types of vehicles such as private cars, taxis, maxis, buses and commercial fleets. The passenger transportation cost will be maintained or reduced.

While there is no subsidy on CNG, significant subsidies result from use of the other liquid transportation fuels, especially diesel fuel. Converting to CNG will result in savings of subsidy from the displaced liquid fuels. If the market conversions are realized, the proposed investment in CNG infrastructure will be recovered within the investment period of 5 years.

The programme will also benefit the road congestion by reducing the fuels transported on the roads by 40%.

As further demonstration of Government's commitment to the initiative of encouraging a cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels and other fuels, it is to be noted that as at April 2004, Trinidad and Tobago phased out the use of leaded fuel to that of unleaded fuel.

It is recognised that Renewable Energy (RE) technologies can play a significant role in alleviating the impact of fossil fuels in terms of environmental pollution and global climate change.

Trinidad and Tobago, as the Caribbean's top exporter of oil and natural gas, plans to expand the RE industry in the country. The objective of this initiative is to develop and utilise the country's renewable energy resources and increase research and development in related technologies.

A Renewable Energy Committee (REC) was launched on February 13, 2009 to prepare a Policy Green Paper on RE and promote domestic RE development and usage. The Green Paper, when completed, is intended to provide the framework for rational and prudent decision making by the Government, for moving forward with its plans and programmes.

The eventual formulation of the Green Paper is intended to foster RE development, educate the national community, promote widespread recognition, usage and acceptance of the opportunities for RE development.

The Green Paper would also address RE in the context of broad sustainable development objectives with respect to energy security, efficiency, conservation and the environment. Utilization of RE resources and research and development in RE technologies are being considered as major imperatives in pursuit of these goals and holds vast potential to:

- → foster an emerging industry that offers strategic economic benefits in a changing world environment;
- → create new avenues for employment, revenue and foreign exchange generation;
- → pursue society's goal for a cleaner environment and a stable climate which can mitigate the impact of global warming;
- → exploit available resources and diversify away from dependence on traditional energy resources;
- → encourage energy efficiency and conservation;
- → provide the country with sustainable alternative sources of energy that will be available even after depletion of the oil and gas resources; and

→ enable the country to explore opportunities for carbon trading within the provisions of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

To date, the REC has developed a comprehensive framework which will inform the preparation of the Green Paper. Key elements of the framework include a rationale for RE development and usage in Trinidad and Tobago and the importance of the electricity subsector as a target for RE usage. Strategies are also being proposed for moving forward in the areas of legislation and regulation, incentives, education, training, financing and research and development and this is being undertaken within the context of global best practices.

The framework also recognizes that there are several barriers that would need to be overcome in order to implement RE plans and programmes.

Moreover it is recognized that success in such a programme would require Government support and major collaboration among all stakeholders in the industry, both local and foreign. In particular, it is important to adopt an integrated approach to RE development between this country and its regional neighbours.

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries has identified and is in the process of assigning the required consultancy resources to assist in completing the exercise.

**ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

In terms of industrial power generation, Trinidad and Tobago has moved from single-cycle to combined-cycle generators. The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) has proposed various strategies to efficiently use and maximise natural gas. These include the use of high efficient combined cycle generators, replacing the less efficient Single-Cycle plant.

A combined-cycle generator uses natural gas more efficiently than a single cycle turbine. The combined-cycle generators will increase generation capacity of plants with no additional use of natural gas.

With regard to Commercial enterprises, there is a programme whereby there are several industrial estates, where small and medium industries are supplied with natural gas; and initiative of Government to stimulate the Light Industrial and Commercial (LIC) sector.

## ENERGY AND RESEARCH

*Fostering investment and innovation in the development and diversification of energy sources and of efficient and environmentally friendly technologies, including cleaner technologies for the production of fossil fuels*

In terms of investment in innovation and its attempt to develop Research and Development (R&D) capabilities in the country, Trinidad and Tobago has set up a special purpose institution – the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). Established in 2004, the institution focuses on speciality energy industrial type training and will play its part in the development of a sophisticated society with the capacity for the application of cutting-edge information and knowledge, as well as to develop the country's knowledge capital, in order to ensure its competitiveness in the regional job market. As part of its vision, the curriculum of the UTT seeks to assist its graduates in navigating new and emerging technologies in the national and global contexts, to keep Trinidad and Tobago in the vanguard of engineering and technology in niche areas of key importance such as natural gas.

In 2006, the Natural Gas Institute of the Americas (NGIA) was launched by the UTT, with grant funding from several state and private sector entities. The NGIA is dedicated to natural gas-related research that impacts the largely hydrocarbon-based economy of the country.

Trinidad and Tobago is developing a policy framework through the National Climate Change Policy to enhance energy efficiency. Ways are currently being explored for renewable energy sources and there is an appointed committee under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries to develop a green paper on renewable energy.

*Promotion of cleaner energy through research and development, capacity building and the transfer on mutually agreed terms and commercialisation of environmentally sustainable technologies*

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries recognizes the importance of utilization of renewable energy (RE) and in this regard, initiatives are in train to foster this thrust and to promote an initiative in the promotion of the commercialisation of environmentally sustainable technologies, with reference to the adoption for the retailing of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) throughout the country.

In the context of Research and Development (R&D), the NGIA has also initiated several projects in collaboration with industry which have more immediate application and commercial value; these include a renewable energy project with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI). The NGIA took the lead in drafting the terms of reference for a comprehensive study into the implementation of RE technology in Trinidad and Tobago. The proposed study is to include, *inter alia*, a current state assessment (technical and economic) of RE applications and research activities in Trinidad and Tobago into Photovoltaic solar power, solar thermal energy, wind energy, wave energy and bio fuels (biomass, biogas, biodiesel and bio ethanol). Targets, strategies and fiscal incentives are to be considered. The study is intended to examine fiscal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for RE implementation. The study is intended to examine fiscal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for RE implementation. Targets, strategies and fiscal incentives are also to be considered.

**ENERGY AND EDUCATION**

Trinidad and Tobago recently marked its Centennial anniversary of commercial oil production and has embarked on a number of initiatives. Among these include a Petroleum and Asphalt Museum which was launched in March 2009 and will be a repository of important information, documents and artifacts on the petroleum and asphalt industry providing facilities for education and research on the industries. In addition, a major publication highlighting the history of T&T's oil industry was produced and distributed, targeting both mature and young audiences. A copy of this book entitled "Trinidad and Tobago: Celebrating a Century of Commercial Oil Production" is attached to the document. Further, industry pioneers were honoured in an Award Ceremony earlier this year and this was also televised as part of the public education campaign.

**ENERGY AND TRADE**

Trinidad and Tobago supports strategies that capture accurate market statistics in oil and other energy sources. This country has been a founding member of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), since the signing of the Lima Agreement, in Quito, Ecuador on November 02nd 1973. OLADE today, strives to contribute to the region's integration, sustainable development and energy security, as well as serve as an intermediary body for advising and promoting cooperation and coordination among its member countries in regards to energy and energy resources.

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries participates in all of OLADE's major yearly meetings and participatory programmes; one of these being the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI). JODI is a collaborative initiative, under the coordination of

the International Energy Forum Secretariat (IEFS) and partnered with the OLADE and 5 other international financial/energy based organizations with the purpose of minimizing the lack of data transparency, which is seen to cause excessive oil price fluctuations. Trinidad and Tobago, through its membership in OLADE, submits local oil market statistics for publication on JODI's database, and in turn, is able to access JODI's database of international oil statistics.

Trinidad and Tobago participates in the Energy Economic Information System (SIEE) which is a statistical database of the energy sector which includes information from OLADE's member countries on oil, natural gas, LNG, coal, refined oil, electricity and others with a historical series since 1970. Additionally, the SIEE produces the Energy Statistics Report which is developed based on the information provided by the Ministries of Energy of OLADE Member Countries and prepared by experts at the Organization. It presents statistical historical data and includes data on ethanol production and consumption, world power generation by type of plants and energy demand matrices by country, by region for Latin American and the Caribbean.

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, through its continued active membership in OLADE, is committed to its regional energy initiatives. The benefit is that it aims to increase our understanding of the dynamics of the global energy market and allows for the forging of partnerships between Trinidad and Tobago and the nations of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

## ENERGY AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago expects corporate social responsibility by large corporate entities such as bpTT and BHP Billiton to be regularly practiced and cover a wide scope of the region. To date, a number of energy companies have been driven to carry out various community outreach programmes. bpTT has been continuously engaged in a number of educational initiatives, from remedial programmes, to the provision of scholarships and incentives for outstanding performance. This includes awards for the top performers in the national Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) examinations at the primary level, bursaries at the tertiary-level and sponsorship of technical/vocational skills training and development.

BHP Billiton has partnered with community groups in the North East of Trinidad to establish the Turtle Village Trust. The Vision of the Turtle Village Trust is to make Trinidad and Tobago the premier turtle tourism destination globally. Trinidad and Tobago is one of the top turtle nesting sites in the world; with an average of 400-500 leatherback turtles coming onto Gran Riviere beach alone per

night at the peak of the season. Additionally, BHP cosponsored an ecotourism conference held earlier this year with the goal of sharing ideas on critical issues relative to turtle conservation, ecotourism, challenges of climate change and sustainable community development.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND MANAGEMENT

Environmental Sustainability has been defined as the ability to maintain the qualities that are valued in the physical environment and this can include the sustaining of human life, maintaining the living conditions for people and other species. There is the recognition of the adverse impact of climate change on all countries but in particular, inter alia, Small Island Developing States and countries with low-lying coasts. Furthermore there was a reaffirmation of the commitment to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations and the positive impact deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions will have.

### CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION IN COPENHAGEN (COP 15)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, together with other Heads of State and Government worked towards an agreed outcome at the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP15) during the period December 07-18, 2009 in Copenhagen.

The commitments reflected within this Section are all-embracing as they take into account existing concepts, action plans and the roles of institutions. The commitments, therefore, include:

→ Role of dialogue, commitment and implementation of action plans contained in legal instruments such as the 1992 Rio Declaration, the

2006 Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

→ The 2007 Bali Action Plan.

→ Improving regional cooperation and strengthening capacity for disaster prevention, reduction, preparedness and response and related activities; also in areas of disaster risk management and reduction.

→ Strengthening of domestic planning and zoning measures and building codes.

→ Enforcement of national environmental laws.

→ Importance of the conservation of marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems. There is also the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of sustainable development.

→ Renewal of support for the work of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

According to a nationwide survey conducted in 2001 by the Sustainable Economic Development Unit of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, the environmental priorities of Trinidad and Tobago were identified as: [7]

- Water pollution
- Sewerage and industrial effluent
- Waste management, inclusive of domestic, commercial, hazardous and solid waste
- Litter
- Coastal zone degradation
- Watershed management / deforestation
- Air pollution
- Vehicular and industrial emissions
- Public participation, awareness and education

Other environmental issues facing the country are also experienced on regional and international levels. These include the generation of greenhouse gases, the increasing trade in biological species, transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste and the rights to and ownership of biological resources. These

[7] Sustainable Economic Development Unit, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine. "Environmental Priorities in Trinidad and Tobago" , Report to the Environmental Management Authority, October 2001.

factors have, over the years, led Trinidad and Tobago to adopt agreements in the form of conventions and protocols.

| Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) | |
|---|---|
| **Goals and Targets (from the Millennium Declaration)** | **Indicators for monitoring progress** |

**AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN TERMS OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)**

| **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability** | |
|---|---|
| Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources<br><br>Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss | 7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest<br>7.2 CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)<br>7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances<br>7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits<br>7.5 Proportion of total water resources used<br>7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected<br>7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction |
| Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation | 7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source<br>7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility |
| Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at | 7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums |

| | |
|---|---|
| least 100 million slum dwellers | |

Table 1

**GOAL 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

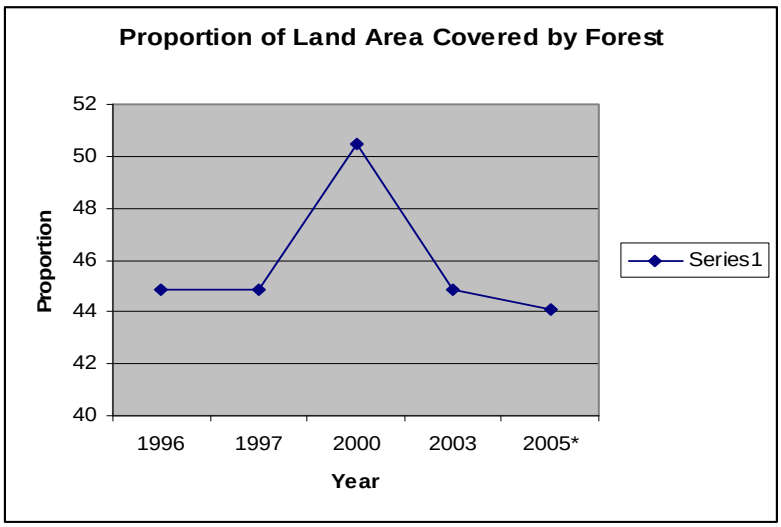
The importance of forest for ecological balance, preservation of biological diversity, climate protection and water reserves is well recognised.

**Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.**

*Indicator: 7.1 Proportion of Land Area Covered By Forest 1996-2003*

Available data as shown in Chart 1 indicate that approximately 45% of the land area in Trinidad and Tobago was covered by forest in 1996. Almost a decade later an additional one percent of our forests have been lost mainly due to forest fires during the dry season and illegal logging. The unusual spike recorded in 2003 to approximately 51% forest cover can be attributed to inaccurate accounting methods. Reforestation efforts to date unfortunately have not yet begun to show results.

***Chart 1: Proportion of Land Area Covered By Forest 1996-2005***



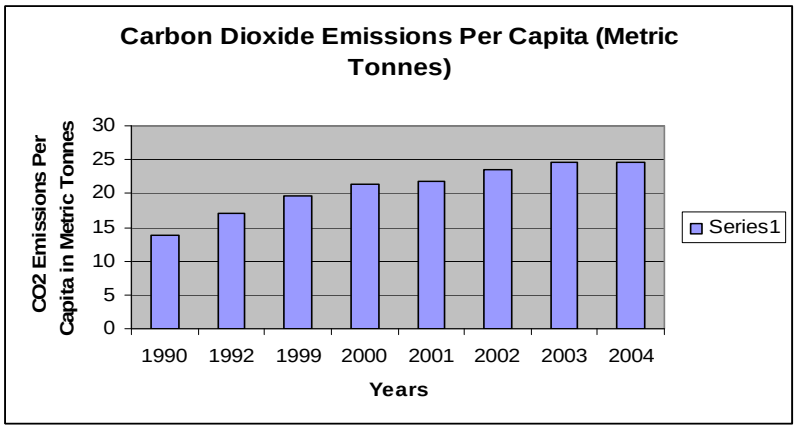

**Source: FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2005*

*Indicator 7.2: CO2 Emissions, Total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)*

As depicted in Chart 2, CO2 emissions increased steadily since 1990 from 13.8 to 21.4 per capita metric tonnes by the turn of the Century. The rate of growth slowed between 2001 and 2003 before levelling off in 2004 at 24.5 per capita metric tonnes, occurring mainly as a result of the activities of petrochemical and oil refining industries and the transportation sector. Trinidad and Tobago is

ranked 4th in the World in respect of its per capita CO2 emissions. In spite of this, however, this country makes a relatively small contribution to total world emissions. (It should be noted that Trinidad and Tobago is not obligated under annex 1 of the Kyoto Protocol to reduce CO2 emissions by 2012).

***Chart 2: Carbon Dioxide Emissions (CO2) Per Capita (Metric Tonnes) 1990-2004***



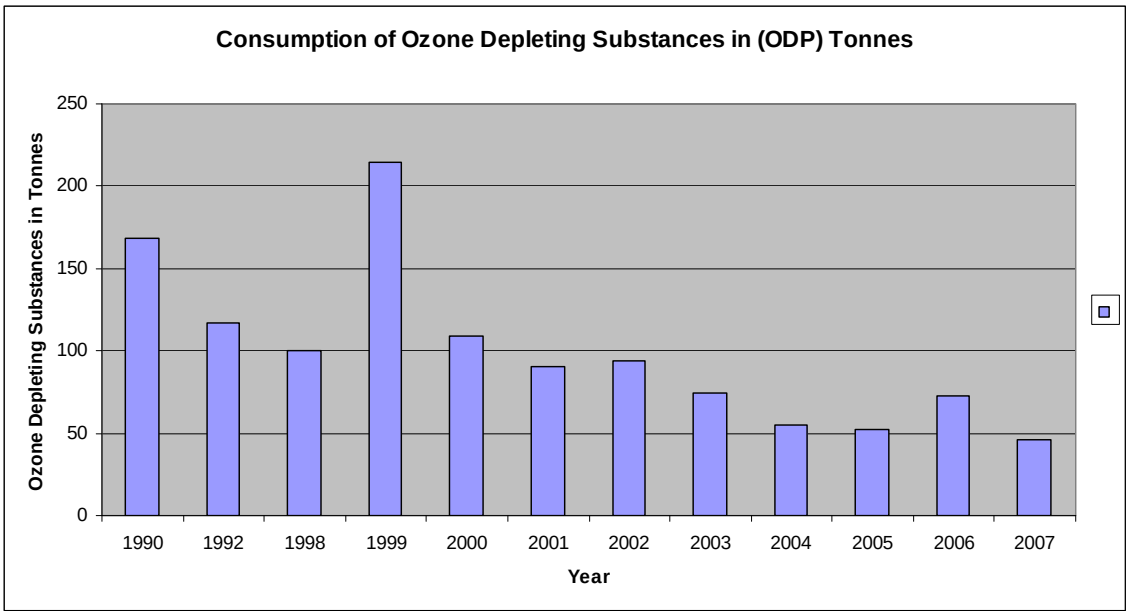

*Source: First National Communication on the Framework Convention on Climate Change*

A major challenge for the country revolves around its industrialisation drive with massive investments in fossil fuel expansion along with the desire to reduce the country's carbon footprint. To address this, the Government is moving toward the development of a national sustainable energy policy framework to promote energy efficiency and to give direction to and encourage investment in renewable energy. In spite of the absence of a policy framework, major players in the energy sector have been proactive in improving the energy efficiency of their operations.

*Indicator 7.3: Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODP Tonnes) 1990-2004*

Consumption of ozone depleting substances stood at approximately 170 ODP tones in 1990 and steadily declined until 1999 when the consumption jumped to over 200 ODP tonnes. This represented an anomaly as consumption levels decreased by more than 100 percent to just over one hundred (100) ODP tonnes in 2000 and continued with a general downward trend reaching 46 ODP tonnes by 2007.

**Chart 3: Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODP Tonnes) 1990-2004**




*Source: Ozone Secretariat:http://www.ozone.unep.org/data_reporting/data_access/generate_report.shtml?*

*Indicator 7.4: Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits*

Available data show a fluctuation in catch sizes of specific fish without a clear indication whether the industry is in decline. However, inappropriate fishing

practices and outdated legislation that result in improper management of the fisheries. Consequently, where stock assessments have been conducted for the commercially important species currently utilized in Trinidad and Tobago, these data suggest that most of these species are either close to full exploitation, fully exploited or overexploited from a conservation (biological) sense and require immediate management action.

***Table 2: Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits***

| | **Catch (tonnes)** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species/Fishery** | **1998** | **1999** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** | **2003** | **2004** | **Status** |
| Tunas and Bonitos | 489 | 524 | 619 | 722 | 1,965 | 958 | 961 | Fully/Over Exploited |
| King mackerel (kingfish) | 788 | 485 | 433 | 472 | 963 | 588 | 577 | Over Exploited |
| Spanish mackerel (Carite) | 2216 | 1365 | 1750 | 2743 | 2245 | 1759 | 2102 | Fully/Over Exploited |
| Shrimp | 882 | 929 | 916 | 935 | 940 | 799 | 712 | Over exploited |
| Billfish | 194 | 210 | 62 | 101 | 119 | 111 | 113 | Over exploited |
| Sharks | 591 | 745 | 805 | 986 | 1,315 | 1,034 | 1,354 | Fully exploited |
| Herring and Jashua | 722 | 943 | 82 | 178 | 47 | 22 | 12 | Unknown |
| Weakfish (Salmon) | 418 | 476 | 546 | 579 | 472 | 448 | 377 | Fully/Over Exploited |
| Croaker | 1,045 | 791 | 1,034 | 1,367 | 1,575 | 1,472 | 1,077 | Fully/Over Exploited |
| Snapper | 691 | 544 | 409 | 514 | 508 | 397 | 372 | Fully |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Exploited |
| Cavalli and other Jacks | 380 | 156 | 365 | 546 | 637 | 402 | 482 | Unknown |
| Other | 1,921 | 2,781 | 2,603 | 2,781 | 3,315 | 1,932 | 1,939 | Unknown |
| **Total** | **10,337** | **9,948** | **9,624** | **11,926** | **14,100** | **9,922** | **10,079** | |

*Source: C.S.O.*

**TARGET 7 B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss**

*Indicator 7.6: Proportion of Terrestrial and Marine area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity*

Although Trinidad and Tobago has several categories of terrestrial protected areas including 46 Forest Reserves, 13 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 3 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), these have not all been specifically designated for the maintenance of biological diversity. Thus, while the Forest Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries do host most of the country's terrestrial biodiversity, the conservation of biodiversity is not their stated primary mission. Consequently, many of these areas have been managed for maximization of timber values to the detriment of biodiversity (e.g. several of these reserves and wildlife sanctuaries have had large portions of their habitats removed to plant exotic timber species such as teak and pine).

***Table 3: Proportion of Terrestrial and Marine area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity***

| | Total Area Under National Jurisdiction ($km^2$) | Area Designated for Biodiversity Protection*[8] ($km^2$) | Proportion of total area designated for biodiversity protection % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Land | 4,828 | 221 | 0.05 |

[8] * representing only terrestrial and marine areas designated under the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Rules and the Marine Preservation and Enhancement Act, respectively.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Marine | 73,633 | 5.85 | > 0.001 |

*Source: Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Rules*

Of the terrestrial areas, only the 3 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), Matura National Park, Nariva Sawmp and Aripo Savannas can be currently considered as designated primarily for biodiversity conservation. In addition, the country currently lacks a legally constituted national parks system.

*Indicator 7.7: Proportion of Species Threatened with Extinction*

Currently there is no national estimate for the proportion of species threatened with extinction, nor is there a comprehensive inventory of the flora and fauna of the country. The only national designation approximating an "endangered" status is the designation of a species as "Environmentally Sensitive" under the Environmental Management Act. To date, only three (3) species have been designated under this legislation (the White-tailed Sabre-wing hummingbird, the leather back marine turtle and the Trinidad Piping-Guan.

**Challenges**

The challenges associated with environmental sustainability are as follows:

- Continued expansion of the energy sector while ensuring a reduction in the country's carbon footprint
- Enforcement of national legislation with regard to the dumping of toxic industrial waste, undesirable agricultural practices and lead pollution
- Improvement in the efficiency of waste water treatment plants and
- The formulation of a new land use policy will also be critical to environmental sustainability.

**Supportive Environment**

In response to the deterioration of the environment, the Government has made strides in establishing an institutional framework and continues to engage in initiatives to ensure protection of the environment including:

- The establishment of the Environmental Management Authority in 1995 in conformity with decisions taken at the Rio Conference.

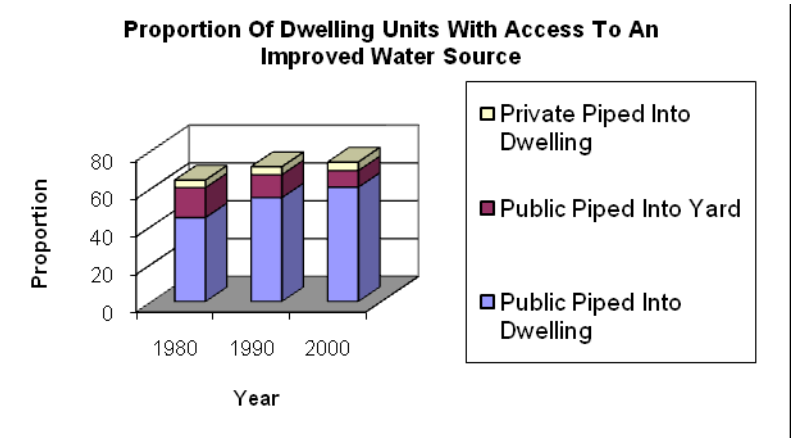
- Removal of leaded gasoline from the market.
- The introduction of the Community Enhancement and Protection of the Environment Programme (CEPEP) in 2002.
- Operationalization of the Green Fund in 2008 financed by revenue generated from the Green Fund Levy to fund private sector environmental projects.
- Expansion of the re-forestation programme to include communities with the aim of re planting 400 hectares of forest each year for ten (10) years.
- The integration of environmental studies in the school curricula.
- Seeking to introduce new legislation dealing with industrial pollution, waste management, national parks and wildlife conservation.
- Introduction of public awareness programmes to sensitise and educate the population on environmental issues and appropriate responses.

**TARGET 7.C: Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation**

In 1990 the percentage of persons who had access to pipe borne water in their home was fifty five percent (55%). This increased over the 1990's and the latest figures available in 2000 show that sixty one percent (61%) of the population have access to pipe borne water in their homes. As it pertains to pipe borne water in the yards of individuals the 1990's showed as decrease of approximately three percent (3%) from twelve percent (12%) to nine percent (9%). Private pipes into dwellings did not show any great fluctuation and remains between four (4) and five (5) percent.

*Indicator 7.8: Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source.*

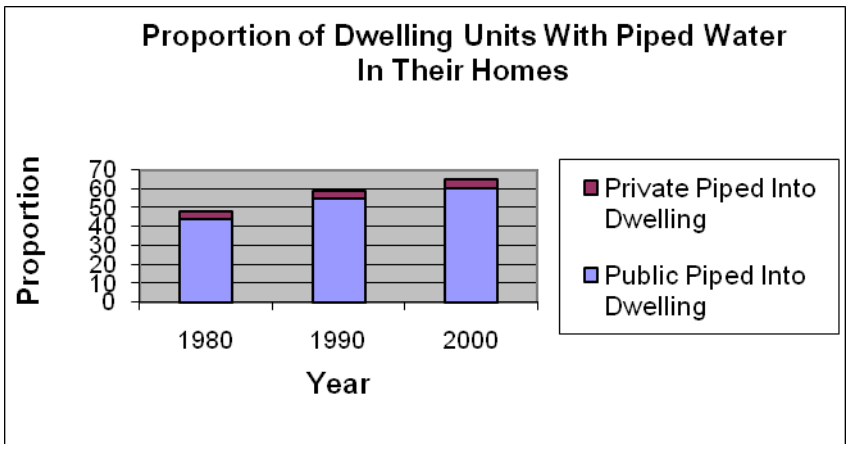
Chart 4: Proportion of dwelling units using an improved drinking water source




There has been an improvement in the proportion of dwelling units with access to an improved water source over the years. Public Piped into dwelling mainly contributed to this increase over the period identified.

Source: *Population* and Housing Census

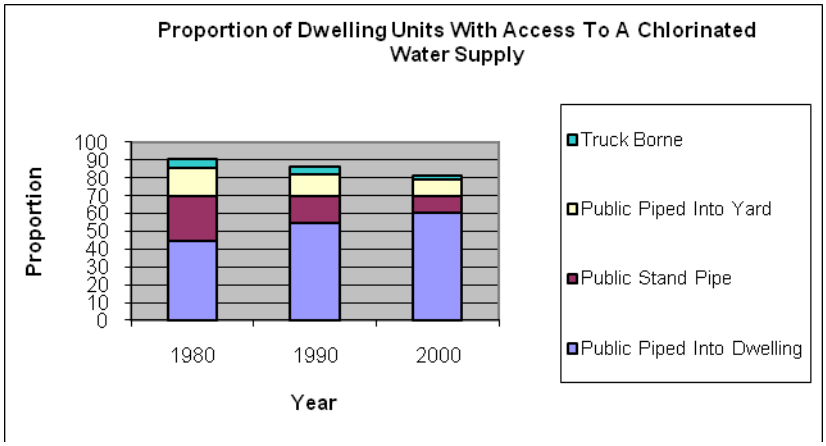
**Chart 5: Proportion of dwelling units with piped water in their homes**




Based on Chart 5, a large proportion of dwelling units in Trinidad and Tobago receive piped water in their homes. Further analysis indicates that most of the dwelling units receive this supply from a public source.

Source: CSO/ Population and Housing Census

Chart 6: Proportion of Dwelling Units with access to a chlorinated water supply




*Source: CSO/Population and Housing Census*

In the year 2000 Chlorinated water was distributed to approximately 80.98% of the dwelling units in Trinidad and Tobago, which represented a decrease of 10.21% from the 1980 figure. An examination of the individual sources of chlorinated water over the period above revealed that public piped into dwelling is increasing while the other sources are falling. Further investigations revealed that an increasing number of dwelling units are receiving water from private sources.

**Challenges**

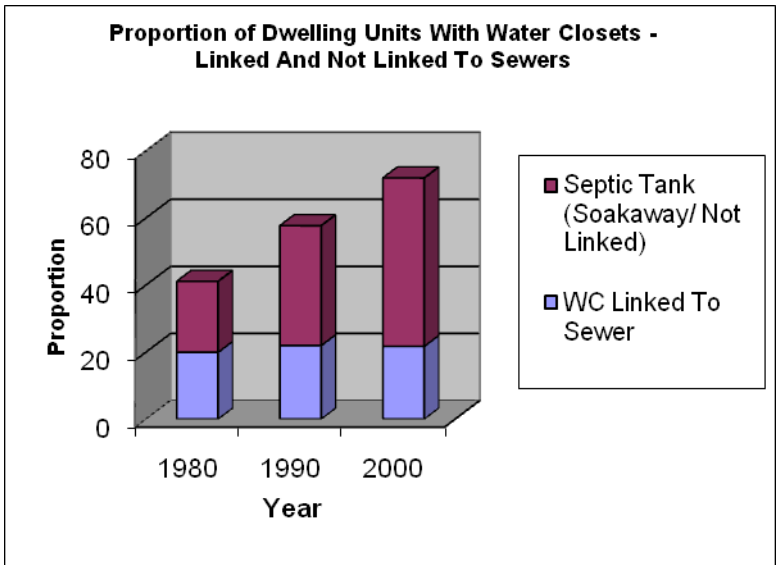
An adequate water supply is one of Government's development priorities and is dependent on proper watershed management and protection of the environment. The immediate challenges of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) the body responsible for the production and distribution of water are:

- Improving efficiency.
- Implementing urgently needed investment programmes which will reduce water loss through leakage as well as improve distribution.

**Supportive Environment**

In the context of a Water and Wastewater Master Plan which is being developed, the Government has committed to improving the water supply to the population including supplying a 24/7 water supply to 60 percent of households by 2012.

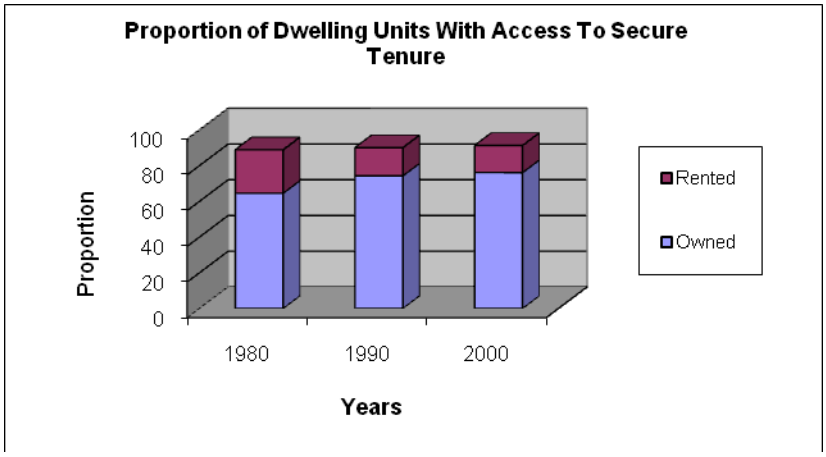
***Chart 8: Proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility***




*Source: CSO/ Population and Housing Census*

The diagram indicates that in the year 2000, 71.9 percent of the households in Trinidad and Tobago had access to water closets. This represented a significant increase over the 1980 figure. Most of these households had closets not linked to sewer (septic tank).

**Chart 9: Proportion of dwelling units with access to secure tenure**




There has been a steady increase in the amount of dwelling units with secure tenure in Trinidad and Tobago over the period identified. The data indicates that more citizens are making the positive decision to own their dwelling units and less are deciding to rent.

**Challenges**

The provision of adequate housing or land for housing to meet the current demand is the major challenge in meeting this target particularly as a growing number of families cannot afford the cost of housing on the open market and the Government's social housing efforts has been unable to satisfy this increasing demand.

**Supportive Environment**

- The regularisation of squatters on State lands that fall under the State Land Regularisation Act of 1998 is continuing. Implementation of the Accelerated Housing Programme, which started in 2002, aims, *inter-alia*, to upgrade the housing stock and to build 10,000 housing units a year for ten years with adequate amenities. This is equivalent to building almost one-third of the existing housing stock over the ten-year period. The programme targets the middle and low-income earners. Funding for this project in part comes from a loan obtained from the IDB. A review of the housing allocation policy is being undertaken to ensure proper targeting of needy and vulnerable persons.

**Goal Achievement**

- Substantial gains to date have been made by this country in its attempt to provide a sustainable supply of safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and shelter. Significant investment is still required in all areas to improve the quality of life of citizens.

**TARGET 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.**

*Indicator 7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums*

No precise determination can be made about the proportion of urban population living in slums as there exist pockets of poverty alongside more affluent communities and this posses a challenge in extracting data from the current available statistics. At present, with assistance from the UNDP, a Quality of Life Index is expected to provide indicators for socio-economic profiling which when applied at the level of the community, would provide both qualitative and quantitative data for a better understanding of the specific needs of communities.

**The Issue of Climate Change**

Climate Change refers to a significant change in the weather pattern of a region or the earth as a whole over a long period of time. It is offset by significant increases in *greenhouse gases* in the earth's atmosphere. Every country in the world is affected by climate change including Trinidad and Tobago. As such, Trinidad and Tobago is signatory to various regional and international treaties including:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change
- Mainstreaming Climate Change Project
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Trinidad and Tobago ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in May 1994, and the Kyoto Protocol in January 1999 and therefore is Party to both the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. This Convention is of particular importance to Trinidad and Tobago given that, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), this country is vulnerable to the severe consequences of climate change, which include sea level rise, increased flooding and loss of coastal habitat to mention a few. Current work on Climate Change is carried out by a Cabinet-appointed Working Group to Determine the Implications of Global Warming, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. This working group focuses on a variety of issues including development of a national adaptation policy and action plan, and public awareness.

The vulnerability of Trinidad and Tobago is compounded by an interplay of a variety of factors, among these being size, geographical dispersion, fragility of ecosystems, isolation from markets, lack of natural, human and technological resources, technical capacity, and limited ability to reap benefits of economies of scale. In addition to this, Trinidad and Tobago through its industrialized economy, also contributes to the emission of gases which bring about global warming and climate change. Trinidad and Tobago has a relatively high per-capita greenhouse gas emission, but very low emissions on a global scale, though this is expected to grow as development continues.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken a position to reduce the levels of greenhouse gases emissions domestically. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago plans to do this by encouraging citizens to shift to cleaner burning fuels by reducing the subsidy on unleaded gas while removing tax and duties on CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) conversion kits for vehicles in order to make them more affordable to people while dissuading them from using traditional fuels. Also, the "Clean Air Act' under the Environmental Management Act is in its developmental stage. This piece of legislation would regulate air emissions coming from industries

by setting specific limits for each greenhouse gas. These policies act to reduce the onset of climate change. Other proposed measures adopted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago are:

- Construction of desalination plants across the country to increase the availability of potable water to its citizens
- Better land use and planning to prevent erosion, deforestation of the hillsides, landslides and flooding

**Trinidad and Tobago and Environmental Governance**

The adoption of national environmental policies, institutional mechanisms and necessary legislative framework is critical to the achievement of environmental protection and environmental sustainability. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) has adopted a number of policies aimed at fulfilling its commitments to various multilateral agreements within the environmental governance regime. These include:

**Revision of the National Environmental Policy:** The National Environmental Policy was revised in 2006. Having due regard to the rapid industrialization of Trinidad and Tobago with the introduction of new types of industry in our economy, major developments occurred in the housing sector and there was significant expansion and upgrading of infrastructure.

The 2006 National Environment Policy recognizes that the environment is an essential pillar of our economic and social development. The Policy focuses on sustainable management of the country's environmental assets and therefore seeks to strike a balance between economic development and the environment.

**Water Pollution Rules:** Guided by the Policy, the Government was successful in laying the Water Pollution (Amendment) Rules 2007 and the Water Pollution (Fees and Regulations) Rules 2007 in Parliament in early 2007. These pieces of legislation, which seek to establish a regime to regulate and reduce the introduction of water pollutants into our natural environment, were made law in February 2007 and will serve to augment the enforceability of the Water Pollution Rules 2001.

**Air Pollution Rules:** The Government has made great strides toward further strengthening the environmental legislative framework on air pollution through extensive consultations with the public. Based upon these consultations, the draft Air Pollution Rules are in the process of being finalized. These Rules will contribute to the reduction of emission of air pollutants into the atmosphere.

**Waste Management Rules:** Trinidad and Tobago has experienced a significant growth in solid waste generation over the last two decades as a result of the increase in population, industrial expansion, urbanization and changing lifestyles. Deficiencies in institutional development, enforcement capabilities and infrastructural facilities, coupled with a lack of environmentally responsible behaviour among large segments of the population, have resulted in significant quantities of solid waste not being disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The time has come when environmental management must be more meaningfully integrated into our development strategy. The goal of sustainable development dictates that environmental concerns be accorded a more central place in the national decision-making process. The preparation of a National Environmental Policy and the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain will not by themselves solve the environmental problems confronting the country.

More fundamentally, there has to be the will, at all levels, to carry through with the implementation of the National Policy and the mandates of Paragraphs 39 to 47 in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain. What will be required in the future is the implementation of legal and institutional support. In addition, there is also an urgent need for an attitudinal and behavioural re-orientation towards the environment from all citizens.

In Trinidad and Tobago, successful environmental management will definitely require the commitment, dedication and cooperation of every citizen, government Ministries and agencies, the private sector, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and regional and international institutions, as new approaches are introduced and tested. Every citizen has a vital role to play in national and hemispheric environmental management efforts.

**The following are strategies to implement environmental sustainability in the future:**

- Strengthen the Institutional, Legal and Regulatory Framework
- Protect Natural Resources and Sensitive Species of Flora and Fauna
- Improve Waste Management
- Promote a Clean, Green and Environmentally Sensitive Trinidad and Tobago
- Promote Greater Environmental Awareness
- Build Strong Partnerships among Environmental Stakeholders
- Develop Renewable Sources of Energy
- Reform Policy Making

- Strengthen Capacity for Environmental Data Management and Develop Environmental Measurement Indicators and Tools
- Introduce Environmental Accounting
- Participate in Protecting the Global Environment

**The following are ongoing major projects for environmental management:**

- Study for the Rehabilitation of Closed Landfills
- Creation of an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network in Trinidad and Tobago
- Drafting of the Waste Management Rules
- Development of a Database – Marine Environment
- Sustainable Management of the Wildlife Resources in Trinidad and Tobago
- Development and Implementation of Management and Recovery Plans for Environmentally Sensitive Species
- Lead Remediation in Trinidad and Tobago
- Biodiversity Assessment in Trinidad and Tobago
- Design and Implementation of an Education and Public Awareness Campaign to Achieve Waste Management Objectives
- National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme (NRWRP)
- Re-afforestation of the Denuded Northern Range
- Improvement of Forest Fire Protection Capability
- Establishment of a Statistical Database
- National Parks and Watershed Management
- Community Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP)
- Feasibility Study – Used Oil Management in Tobago
- Closure of and Rehabilitation of the Beetham Landfill
- Preparation of a Forest Cover Map for Trinidad and Tobago

**Targeted Outcomes**

- Solid waste reduced by at least 10 percent
- Forest cover increased by at least 5 percent
- Number of threatened animal and plant species reduced by at least 5 percent
- At least 30 percent of wastewater being treated in accordance with international standards
- Use of Ozone Depleting Substances phased out by January 01, 2008
- Water and air pollution rules in effect
- Waste sorting and recycling system introduced

- Beverage Containers legislation in effect
- Standards in effect for wastewater treatment plants and vehicle emissions
- National Integrated Waste Management System in operation
- Environmental Management Systems established in industries
- National Council for Sustainable Development established
- Matura National Park, Buccoo Reef, Nariva Swamp, Aripo Savannah and Speyside designated as environmentally sensitive areas
- 'Greening' of cities and communities ongoing

## STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECURITY

There is widespread understanding of the various threats confronting the Americas and the recognition of the invaluable work undertaken by the institutions within the Inter-American System which in many respects were comparable to those developed by the United Nations. There are commitments by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to fight all forms of transnational organized crime through enhanced cooperation and adequate resources.

There is the recognition that violence is preventable and in this regard, regional Heads of State and Government must formulate or strengthen policies that approach such an issue from a multi-dimensional angle. There is also acknowledgement of the negative impact of criminal gangs. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to work together with regional bodies such as the Organization of American States (OAS), CARICOM and other Inter-American

institutions to prepare a comprehensive hemispheric strategy to deal with this problem.

## TERRORISM

Since 2003, Trinidad and Tobago has assigned four officers to work at the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) Secretariat. Overall, in terms of financial and human resource support, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has contributed more than U.S. $1,000,000.00 to CICTE from 2003 to present. Trinidad and Tobago held the Chair of CICTE from 2005 to 2006, hosting the Fifth Regular Session in Port of Spain in 2005. During its chairmanship Trinidad and Tobago established new policy directions that have brought Caribbean concerns for multidimensional security to the forefront of the hemispheric counter-terrorism agenda. Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to fight terrorism is evident in its annual contribution to CICTE.

On December 02 2006, Trinidad and Tobago became the 16th state within the OAS to ratify the Inter American Convention against Terrorism. The Convention spells out the standards required to determine whether a person is a suspected terrorist and requires all measures carried out under its banner be implemented with full respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has continued its efforts to implement various measures to enhance border security and ultimately strengthen the capacity of the country in the fight against terrorism.

## ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS

In tackling transnational organized crime, the Government is aggressively pursuing a number of measures that extend to bilateral, regional and global arrangements, legislative review and amendment, institutional reform and capacity building throughout this country's national security and criminal justice framework. The illicit trafficking in drugs is the most visible form of serious crime in Trinidad and Tobago. This country is in support of the hemispheric commitment to address this problem. In April 2007, Trinidad and Tobago re-affirmed its commitment to CICAD by approving an annual contribution of US $20,000 to assist the Executive Secretariat in delivering its work program. This country also works with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and adheres to international counter-narcotics agreements.

The Government is also pursuing both supply and demand reduction initiatives in the form of:

- Inter-agency collaboration
- Capacity Building
- Border Control Initiatives
- Information and Intelligence Sharing
- Public Awareness
- Substance Abuse and Diagnostic Studies
- Standardization of Operations of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

## ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN ARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Inter American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) 1997 on 23 January 2004. In terms of domestic initiatives, the government is actively engaged in the establishment of a national fusion centre with responsibility for centralizing all information and intelligence on firearms, both legal and illegal. Additionally capabilities for standardized electronic tracing of firearms are being developed simultaneously with specialized training of relevant enforcement, scientific and analytical personnel. Inter agency cooperation is also being promoted and encouraged. Measures to combat illicit arms trafficking include:

- Improved naval law enforcement with the posting of additional officers at the various ports
- The acquisition of maritime assets for interception of sea vessels suspected of transporting illegal commodities (Off Shore Patrol Vessels) and interceptors
- The installation of a radar system to inter alia, monitor air and sea crafts entering and exiting the territory of Trinidad and Tobago
- The merging of the Organized Crime and Narcotics Bureau with the Firearms Interdiction Unit in 2004, to form the Organized Crime, Narcotics and Firearms Bureau.
- Amendment of the Firearms Act by the Firearms Amendment Acts of 2004 and 2006 to allow for stricter penalties for those breaching the law
- Consideration of the reintroduction of a Police Marine Branch Public Education

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- The acquisition of maritime assets for interception of sea vessels suspected of transporting illegal commodities (Off Shore patrol Vessels)
- The installation of a radar system to inter alia, monitor air and sea crafts entering and exiting the territory of Trinidad and Tobago
- The merging of the Organized Crime and Narcotics Bureau with the Firearms Interdiction Unit in 2004, to form the Organized Crime, Narcotics and Firearms Bureau. This was a realization that the proliferation of illegal firearms in T&T was related to organized crime and the illicit drug trade. These trades have been known to be useful as tools of terrorist financing worldwide.
- Amendment of the Firearms Act by the Firearms Amendment Acts of 2004 and 2006 to allow for stricter penalties for those breaching the law.

*eTrace*

In May 2009, Trinidad and Tobago signed the E-Trace Agreement with the United States. eTrace is a web based communication system which utilizes the internet to send requests to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for searches of firearms connected with ongoing criminal investigations *("crime guns")*, as well as firearms which are found or recovered by law enforcement officers.

Analysis of the firearms trace data can assist in the identification of firearms trafficking patterns and geographic profiling for criminal hot spots and possible sources of illicit firearms. Local law enforcement agencies will be able to effectively use the eTrace firearms trace information platform as an investigative strategy for the reduction of firearms-related crime and violence. Upon signing of the Agreement, Trinidad and Tobago has joined with other CARICOM and Central American States in having access to this system that has processed more than 300,000 crime-gun trace requests in fiscal year 2008 only.

## ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

Trinidad and Tobago ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially, Women and Children on November 6, 2007. Due to the complex nature of human trafficking, addressing the issue is not easy. Careful consideration must be given to prevention measures, victim assistance and protection. Since 2005, Trinidad and Tobago has worked with the International

Organization for Migration (IOM) in our effort to combat trafficking and illegal migration. In December 2008, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago undertook to retain the IOM office in the country after the funding for a two-year project had been exhausted. The retention of this Office will make efforts to combat this crime more effective. The IOM will be of assistance as it:

- Offers expert advice, research, technical cooperation, and operational assistance to states, inter-governmental groups, NGOs and other stakeholders in building national capacities and facilitating national, regional and bi-lateral cooperation on migration
- Support states and migrants in addressing the challenges of irregular migration
- Undertakes programs to facilitate the voluntary return and re-integration of refugees, displaced persons and other individuals in cooperation with other relevant international organizations as appropriate.

The lack of specific legislation to deal with the issue is a reality, and while the crime of trafficking can be addressed under provisions in other legislation, further plans are in place to enact specific legislation based on the model proposed by the IOM.

**MONEY LAUNDERING**

Foundational to Trinidad and Tobago's current legislative reform, is the fulfilment of the internationally recognized Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 40 + 9 Recommendations. The Government has already successfully worked towards the passage of the Financial Institutions Act (2008) and is currently undertaking the redrafting of the Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill, the expansion of the Financial Obligations Regulations (2008) and the promotion of the Financial Intelligence Unit Bill through active legislative review and advocacy. Money laundering is often linked to terrorist financing. Trinidad and Tobago has implemented measures to combat the transfer of money or assets across borders through formal and informal systems or network.

**KIDNAPPING**

Since 2007, there has been a steady decline in reported cases because of Government's intensified anti-kidnapping efforts made possible through the implementation of Trinidad and Tobago's integrated national security and public safety policy agenda. These efforts included the building of the specialist investigative capabilities, augmentation of the human resource base and the modernization of physical infrastructure and operating environment within national security.

## CRIMINAL GANGS

The number of criminal gangs has been steadily growing over the past decade in Trinidad and Tobago. The Police Service has employed several strategies with government and non-government social programmes which have had different measures of success. Despite this, the police have noted that gangs continue to exert an overall negative impact on society. The Government has adopted a two-pronged approach to the gang problem:

1. The deterrence of socially displaced/vulnerable persons, through an array of social programmes such as skills-enhancement and assistance programs for the unemployed.

2. The augmentation of law enforcement capabilities chiefly through the creation of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) with a view to reduce gang activities and gang violence nationwide.

## CYBER CRIME

Trinidad and Tobago played host to the CICTE Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Cyber-security Awareness. Draft national policies on Critical Infrastructure and Cyber Crime Security have been developed and are the subject matter of consultation in a specially constituted Ministerial Committee of the Ministry of National Security and Ministry of Public Administration. Institutionally, there have been concerted efforts in capacity building. Intensive training took place between April to November 2008 with the support of the U.S. Government and a Cyber Crime Enforcement Unit has since been established within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

In June 2009, the Draft National Cyber Security Strategy and the Strategic Plan for Information Security (SPIS) were reviewed and these two documents were incorporated to develop a comprehensive National Security Strategy. Government approval is currently being sought for the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising representatives from several Ministries and agencies managing critical infrastructure and information assets that can be affected by any disruption or breach of information security:

## THE CITIZEN SECURITY PROGRAMME (CSP)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago's has as one of its priorities, the reduction of existing levels of criminal violence in the country, which poses a real threat to our peace and stability. The Citizen Security Programme (CSP) is an initiative of the Ministry of National Security whose objective is that of contributing to the reduction in crime and violence in 22 *'high needs'* pilot communities in Trinidad

and Tobago, through the financing of preventative interventions addressing the most proximal and modifiable risks. The general aim of the CSP is to contribute to the reduction of crime and violence in 22 high crime communities. It focuses on young people between the ages of 7 to 24 to ensure that the greatest impact is achieved.

## MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

As a member of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Trinidad and Tobago provides an annual contribution of $US 20,000 to CICAD, which is beyond its mandated OAS contribution. Trinidad and Tobago participates fully in all areas of CICAD and has benefited from information shared at Regular Sessions and other meetings of the Commission. During the recent International Working Group (IWG), advocacy was undertaken for the inclusion of indicators relevant to transit countries in the 5th Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

For the period June 2008 – May 2009, CICAD provided support in the following areas:

- Ongoing training for the MEM
- Training for the police and law enforcement
- Training for the drug observatory
- Training in the Development, Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation of National
- Anti-Drug Plans
- Participation in the various Expert Groups
- Review and input during development of the National Anti-Drug Plan 2008-2012
- Review and input during development of the draft Policy on Standards of Care
- Participation in the CICAD / EU-LAC Twinning Project
- Participation by T&T in CICAD/Multilateral Meetings (reports, decisions, recommendations)

The National Drug Council (NDC) of the Ministry of National Ministry has pursued the following actions to help to reduce the abuse of drugs, paying particular regard to prevention and education:

→ Implementation of the National Anti-Drug Plan 2008-2012

→ Implementation of a research study to estimate the human, social and economic cost of drugs to the society of Trinidad and Tobago – this will ensure that issues will receive the level of priority necessary as a result of empirical data

→ Development of a policy to establish a Standard of Care for Treatment and Rehabilitation – Anticipated completion April 2010.

→ Public Education

Trinidad and Tobago participates fully in the execution of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). The MEM requires the identification of a Governmental Expert and Alternate to the Expert to participate in the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), as well as a National Coordinating Entity (NCE). CICAD undertakes a review by the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) prior to the start of every Round, and engages NCE and the GEG in discussions throughout the execution of the Round. This lends relevance to the process and keeps the countries engaged. The 5th Round of the MEM will was held in July of 2009 and Trinidad and Tobago participated fully in each Round. With respect to the implementation of the MEM recommendations at the national level, Trinidad and Tobago received 15 recommendations in the 4th Round. The country has a MEM Team, which facilitates the completion of the indicators and works on the implementation of recommendations. To date, 5 of the recommendations have been fully implemented, significant progress has been made on another 5 and minimal progress has been achieved on the remaining 5.

**ENERGY AND PUBLIC SECURITY**

Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on April 25, 2001. Although there are no specific laws in Trinidad and Tobago which directly treat with the issue of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, this country has been party to several Conventions, which seek to limit or eliminate their use. One such Convention is the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 1 which Trinidad and Tobago acceded to on June 24, 1997 and which came into force on July 24, 1997. Further, Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention on July 19, 2007.

However, a new law entitled the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxins Weapons Bill, 2009 was circulated in the Parliament in late September 2009. This Bill is meant to give legal effect to the United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxins Weapons as well as the destruction of such chemicals in Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago has not signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban

Treaty (CTBT), making it one of three OAS States (along with Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) not to do so.

In 1970, Trinidad and Tobago ratified the "Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America", which obligates Latin American parties not to acquire or possess nuclear weapons, nor to permit the storage or deployment of nuclear weapons on their territories by other countries. This Treaty seeks to ensure that Latin America remains a 'nuclear free zone'. However, this country has not signed any of the three amendments to the Treaty subsequent to the ratification of 1970. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the development of a sustainable mechanism to detect and manage all possible threats/crises that may occur against the energy based resources and energy sectors through the collaboration and co-operation amongst the Ministry of National Security, other state agencies such as the Ministry of Energy and the industrial sector.

The following objectives were named:

- To formalise an arrangement between the industrial sector; the Ministry of National Security and other relevant state agencies with respect to information sharing and mutual assistance;
- To formalize an arrangement amongst state agencies and the industrial sector with respect to incidents/crises management;
- To create a framework to conduct an assessment and evaluate the risk to the industrial sector;
- To create a management system to ensure the sustainability of the mechanism.

**THE CARIBBEAN FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (CFATF)**

Trinidad and Tobago is part of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and is required to implement the 40 + 9 recommendations of the FATF. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has recognized that the financial institutions in

Trinidad and Tobago do in fact follow many of its recommendations in particular, the customer due diligence procedures and the submission of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) to our Counter Drug & Crime Task Force, which acts as Trinidad and Tobago's Financial Intelligence Unit. In respect to Trinidad and Tobago's domestic legislative framework, the following Bills have been drafted as a step forward in satisfying the FATF recommendations:

a) The Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill 2009. This Bill amends the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and some of the FATF recommendations are satisfied by this Bill. It is more robust than the existing POCA as the range of

offences which it captures and the scope of entities which it now targets is wider. It also creates the offence of money laundering and provides for mutual assistance and the sharing of information between and among states.

b) The Financial Obligations Regulations. These regulations are made by the Minister under section 56 of the Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill. These Regulations codify the existing guidelines issued to financial institutions by the Central Bank and incorporate many of the FATF recommendations. Many of these recommendations speak to "know your customer rules", due diligence and the reporting requirements for financial institutions in respect of large, complex and unusual transactions, as well as cash transactions above a particular limit.

c) The Financial Intelligence Unit Bill 2009. This Bill creates a unit to which financial institutions submit SARs. The Unit is deemed to be the designated authority under POCA. Its function includes analyzing and disseminating information in respect of SARs to the relevant law enforcement authority. The Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill 2009 and the Financial Intelligence Unit Bill 2009 were both laid in Parliament. In respect of Terrorist Financing, the office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) are in the process of drafting an amendment to the Terrorism Act.

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- Programmes such as skills-enhancement and assistance programs for the unemployed.
- The augmentation of law enforcement capabilities chiefly through the creation of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) with a view to reduce gang activities and gang violence nationwide.

## STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

*Good Governance – People Participation* speaks to the sixth developmental pillar espoused by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The focus in this area will be on three (3) key elements for the purpose of ensuring transparency, accountability, participation and effective representation as essential principles of good governance.

These are:

- strengthening existing institutions
- enhancing democracy
- strengthening execution and delivery capacity.

Various approaches are essential to the preservation of strong democracies, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Additionally, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago seeks to:

→ uphold the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter
→ foster credibility and public trust in democratic institutions
→ recognize the role of good governance at the local level

- → strengthen mechanisms against corruption, fraudulent practices and unethical behaviour
- → foster a culture of integrity and transparency within public and private offices and institutions
- → continue supporting the strengthening and improvement of the Inter-American System of Human Rights
- → support the objects of the Social Charter of the Americas and conclude negotiations on other draft Human Rights-based instruments.

This country will also place emphasis on child protection public policy and legislation so that the overall environment will be free from violence and abuse.

## STRENGTHENING THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTIVENESS

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, by hosting the Fifth Summit of the Americas during the period April 17-19, 2009, has proven its commitment to the strengthening of Inter-American relations through links of cooperation and partnership. In so doing, Trinidad and Tobago has successfully promoted the founding principles of the Organization of American States (OAS); that of promoting democracy, defending human rights, fostering integral development and prosperity and supporting Inter-American legal cooperation.

One and a half years after the Fifth Summit, Trinidad and Tobago, mindful of the importance of Summit implementation and bearing in mind that the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain was intended to be a long term plan of action, has shifted its focus to the execution of Summit mandates outlined in the Port of Spain Declaration.

**Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee**

In August 2009, Trinidad and Tobago appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee to facilitate the implementation of the mandates of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, comprising officers from selected Government Ministries and Institutions to take the process of implementation further. The Inter-Ministerial Committee is vested with the responsibility to report to the Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago approximately every three (3) months.

**Methodology of the Inter-Ministerial Committee**

Since the Declaration of Port of Spain was divided into different issues, different Ministries would be instrumental in addressing specific issues, for example, health, education, gender issues, agriculture, education and so forth. Therefore, in order to ensure effective implementation, it was necessary for all stakeholders in the Summit of the Americas Process to identify the mandates specific to them; ascertain whether they are already included in the work programme and if they are not, ensure that they are; set up monitoring tools which would gauge the status of implementation and submit periodic reports to the Cabinet and then to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to engaging all relevant stakeholders on the issue of Summits follow-up and implementation, therefore, separate meetings and consultations took place with civil society, other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

**SISCA**

Two senior members of the OAS Summits Secretariat: Ambassador Sonia M. Johnny, Senior Policy Advisor/Deputy Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and Dr. Cristobal Dupouy, Specialist, Summits of the Americas Secretariat introduced the *Summits of the Americas Mandate Follow-Up System (SISCA).* The OAS gave a demonstration of *SISCA,* the online interagency work tool that would facilitate the entry of information by entities linked to the implementation of Summits' mandates and for public consultation.

Various Ministries and Institutions are currently engaged in the use of SISCA.

**Conclusion**

The Port of Spain Declaration presented this Hemisphere with an opportunity for multiple sectors of society to define together a system to monitor, systematize and follow-up on the goals to which the Declaration gives rise. The Fifth Summit of the Americas propelled Trinidad and Tobago to mount a strong

implementation process that includes mechanisms for successful participation by all stakeholders to maximize the benefits to the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.