



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
633 Third Avenue, 12th Floor • New York, N.Y. 10017 • Tel.: (212) 697-7620 • Fax: (212) 682-3580

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DENNIS FRANCIS,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
2023 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
UNDER THE THEME
“ACCELERATING THE RECOVERY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19) AND THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT ALL LEVELS ”.

Trusteeship Council
19 July 2023

Madam President,

This year's Forum comes at a crucial juncture as the persistent impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as climate change and global instability have placed extraordinary strain on our societies. In fact, at this midpoint, the real prospects for developing countries to achieve sustainable development by 2030 appear rather bleak as the Global South experiences rapid, catastrophic de-development.

In the prevailing circumstances, the 2030 Agenda becomes even more crucial as it remains the preeminent global blueprint to address our fragilities and ensure that no one is left behind.

Madam President,

As part of its objective to build back better from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago established the Roadmap to Recovery (R2R). The Roadmap focuses on three immediate priorities: addressing and mitigating hardship inflicted by COVID-19; increasing economic growth; and laying the foundation for sustained economic recovery.

The priorities are meant to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago's progress towards achieving the objectives of its National Development Strategy, Vision 2030, was not irreparably derailed.

In addition, the Government's strategy focuses on the expansion of domestic production capabilities through the creation of a business-enabling environment that attracts private sector investment, and the adoption of innovative, technology-driven solutions, in areas such as renewable energy, education and health.

Notwithstanding these efforts, Madam President, it is of paramount importance that the thrust of our discussions and actions aim at bringing about a paradigm shift in development cooperation and finance that would make a quantum difference in moving us closer to achieving the SDGs.

The international community as a whole must do all it can meaningfully, to accelerate international support for global development and to take urgent action to widening the range and value of concessionary financing available, especially to small island developing countries.

It our hope that the ongoing work to establish a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI), and the elaboration of a new global development framework for SIDS at the Fourth International SIDS Conference will concretely and definitively address the needs and priorities of SIDS as a matter of urgency.

Madam President,

Trinidad and Tobago remains unreservedly committed to ensuring that no one is left behind. In this regard, we look forward, with anticipation, to the convening of the SDG Summit in September, as we join with others in reaffirming our commitment to the common pursuit of sustainable development and shared prosperity for all nations and peoples.

I thank you.