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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

by

**His Excellency Dennis Francis  
Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations**

**During the General Debate of the First Committee  
76th session of the United Nations General Assembly  
on all Disarmament and International Security  
Agenda items**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Caribbean Community. Permit me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago has noted, with much concern, the modernization and acceleration of the accumulation of nuclear and other arsenals by some States. An unchecked nuclear arms race could potentially put the world, either through miscalculation or through pre-meditation, on a certain path to catastrophic human and environmental consequences. The evidence suggests that contrary to the conventional wisdom, deterrence, in fact, breaths escalation. We remain convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction offers the only effective guarantee of international peace and security.

As part of a region, which established the first Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, Trinidad and Tobago has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the global non-proliferation regime. Along with the international community, we welcomed the entry into force of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons earlier this year and we look forward to the first meeting of States Parties in 2022.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite ongoing concerted efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, Trinidad and Tobago like many others, continues to experience the deleterious effects of the diversion of these SALWs; posing a significant threat to social stability and to sustainable development.

In addition to the rule of law, Trinidad and Tobago relies on the strict observance by all States of the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and international treaties and agreements to guarantee our right to a sovereign, secure and peaceful existence. We therefore remain fully committed to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all Its Aspects (UN-POA), the International Tracing Instrument and the Arms Trade Treaty. As part of CARICOM, Trinidad and Tobago actively participated in BMS7 held earlier this year and looks forward to the convening of BMS8 in 2022.

Mr. Chairman,

While recognising the awesome role of Information and Communications Technology as an enabler of development, Trinidad and Tobago is cognisant that ICT lends itself to malicious misuse by hostile actors, including criminal and terrorist organisations. Consequently, our Government has given focus to adopting strategies to reduce the nation's vulnerability. Mindful of the need for international

cooperation in minimizing this threat, Trinidad and Tobago keenly followed the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies, which concluded its work earlier this year. We look forward to the convening of the new OEWG later this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Since conceptually, we all share the common objective of achieving lasting international peace and security, then conceptually, we must all contribute to making it a reality. In this regard, the role of women goes well beyond recognizing them as victims, but must also include acknowledging their actual and potential contribution to the process. Our Government therefore reaffirms its commitment to the fulsome engagement of women at all levels, in all aspects of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and will continue to robustly support international and regional initiatives to that end.

Mr. Chairman

In closing, Trinidad and Tobago reiterates its gratitude for the continuing assistance offered by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). We look forward to continued collaboration to advance the goal of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you.