



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**SERENA JOSEPH-HARRIS, DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC SERVICES AGENCY
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

TO

**THE UNITED NATIONS THIRD BIENNIAL OF STATES
TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM OF
ACTION TO COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

14 - 18 JULY, 2008

New York 14 July, 2008

Mr Chairman

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to congratulate you on your election to preside over this Meeting, and to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr Chairman

Our delegation aligns itself with the Statement issued by Indonesia on behalf of the NonAligned Movement: The Statement delivered by Barbados on behalf of the Caricom Community (CARICOM) and the Statement made by Colombia on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC).

Mr Chairman

Trinidad and Tobago views international cooperation assistance and capacity building as being at the core of our countries efforts in implementing the provision of the Program of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

Trinidad and Tobago has in its national reports, emphasized the measures that it has been undertaking, both legislatively and administratively to implement its obligation under these instruments. We are however conscious of the importance of cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Despite being a non producing state we continue to witness the ongoing devastation visited on our society as a result of related violence and criminal activity that are an integral component of the pandemic.

At regional level Trinidad and Tobago has been an active member of Caricom initiatives specifically aimed at securing the regional maritime environment against cross-border illicit movement of persons and commodities. We are moving towards a Caricom Treaty that would make possible the sharing of aerial and maritime assets provided by Trinidad and

Tobago and facilitating the issue of arrest warrants in respect of persons of interest involved in cross-border illicit activity.

At bilateral level, Trinidad and Tobago has agreement with other members of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. These include Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela. Since the last Biennial (2006) Trinidad and Tobago has convened at the level of Heads of State and Government - other such meetings culminated in the Declaration of Santa Domingo in March 2007, in which Heads of State and Government recommitted themselves to a cooperative regional security approach within the hemisphere to combat transnational organized crime in its various manifestations. Trinidad and Tobago and other participating governments are fully conscious of the potential devastation that would result from the continued and unfettered movement of illicit arms and its impact on national development plan and overall regional stability.

Mr Chairman

It is against this backdrop that my delegation wishes to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Program of Action provision.