



AFTERWORD

Current Statements on the Foreign Policy of Trinidad & Tobago

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*Excerpts and statements collected by Dr. Hans Geiser from recent
Statements by Trinidad & Tobago to the UN General Assembly at its
67th Session, and from the IMF Board's Working Group on Small
Vulnerable Middle Income Countries: For a Coordinated and
Strengthened Voice, January 2012.*

*Endorsing the Statement by the President of the 67th Session of the
UN General Assembly:*

'A growing number of States are determined to enhance their
external engagement, aspiring to play greater roles in their
respective regions and beyond. As a result, power and influence in
the international arena are becoming diffuse.'

On the basic architecture of the UN Charter:

'In these decades of engagement, we are always anchored by the
three main pillars on which the United Nations was founded,
namely peace and security, human rights and development'.

On conventional weapons and arms trade:

'The stability of many regions is being undermined by the illicit trade in conventional weapons which has fuelled armed conflict and armed violence.

We deeply regret the failure of the UN Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, despite the support of the overwhelming majority. Illegal weapons, including small arms ... is an affront to efforts to resolve disputes by peaceful means.'

On the Role of the UN Security Council:

'For Trinidad & Tobago the status quo is unacceptable. The Council must be reformed to represent the current geopolitical realities of the 21st Century.'

On the International Criminal Court:

'Trinidad & Tobago calls on all nation states to ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression. We expect to ratify these amendments by the next Assembly of States Parties.'

On Israel and Palestine:

'The United Nations must commit all available resources to mediating a two state agreement to begin to resolve the Israeli Palestinian situation, in full accordance with relevant resolutions reaffirming borders existing before 1967.'

On Cuba:

'In the view of Trinidad & Tobago, the economic blockade of Cuba is an anachronism. We therefore call, yet again, for its removal.'

On the Millennium Development Goals:

'While Trinidad & Tobago would have preferred a more equitable geographical representation on the Secretary's General Panel on the acceleration of efforts to achieve the MDG targets, we however, welcome its establishment. We also call for fresh and bold changes

and a paradigm shift in thinking in the design of the post 2015 development agenda.’

On the environment and climate change:

‘We must safeguard the environment for future generations and move decisively to fully implement our obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol.’

On Health and Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs):

‘The prevalence of NCDs poses a serious threat to Caribbean Development. Trinidad and Tobago laments the lack of action on the Political Declaration one year ago... We cannot risk further inaction on this matter. We therefore urge that this matter be given high priority on the international development agenda.’

On Women and Disarmament

Trinidad & Tobago was privileged to host a High-Level Discussion with other Member States, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and NGOs on the topic of Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The highlight of the discussion was the signing of a Joint Statement to promote the equitable representation of women in these matters and to support a GA resolution accordingly’.

On Small and Middle Income Countries and the International Lending Institutions:

‘Trinidad and Tobago has promoted at every forum the need for constructive dialogue between small States and the G20, the BRICS, and the International Financial Institutions. Trinidad & Tobago recognizes that this calls for a new diplomacy ... and we are calling on the major international lending agencies to recognize the special circumstances of middle-income countries and not to push them to the margins of the development agenda. We must advance the global governance agenda and to this end, small and middle-income countries must not be excluded from development cooperation on the single basis of per capita income.’

On the role of the IMF regarding small middle-income Countries:

'The Fund has policies for advanced economies, emerging markets, LICs, but small vulnerable middle income states, many of them in the Caribbean, 'fall between the cracks' to use Minister Dookeran's expression. In 2011, Minister Dookeran urged me to find ways to increase the voice, visibility and presence of small, vulnerable middle income states in the Fund.' (Remarks by the Executive Director for Brazil, Mr. Paulo Nogueira Batista Jr. at the Executive Board Meeting on Trinidad & Tobago, 28 March, 2012).