



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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STATEMENT

by

Mrs. Serena Joseph-Harris
Director, Strategic Services Agency
of Trinidad and Tobago

at the

**Preparatory Committee for the United Nations
Conference to Review Progress Made in the
Implementation of the Programme of Action
to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit
Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
in All Its Aspects**

**Interactive debate on Cluster IV
International Cooperation and Assistance**

January 17, 2006
United Nations Headquarters
New York



Mr. Moderator

I have the honor to take the floor to contribute to the views being expressed on the very important issues on international finance, capacity building, specialist training, resource mobilization and networks for information sharing.

Trinidad and Tobago recognizes that the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms is a transnational phenomenon and therefore aligns itself with views being expressed supportive of international finance assistance in responding to this phenomenon. In its relentless drive towards generating solutions our government has been collaborating with other governments and societies within the Caribbean, more specifically Caricom member states, as well as with regional and international bodies and governments outside the Caribbean.



At the forum of CARICOM, through the Regional Task Force on Crime and Security agreement has already been reached on the need to pursue a regional action plan and to have regional participation in the management and implementation of such a plan.

This has been agreed to by Caricom Heads of Government. This development brings into focus the need for an identifiable donor community, dedicated to providing financial assistance that would support the framework needed both nationally and regionally. Such assistance would have to be structured and coherent and draw extensively from the chronology of country reports and the wealth of research and typologies generated from the Programme of Action. It would require lines of activity and cooperation that are parallel to Programme of Action priorities.



Trinidad and Tobago is of the view that such funding should give primacy to technical assistance, training, and resource mobilization concerns. This would need to be predicated upon

- The endorsement of international norms and standards such as the Protocol Against Illicit Manufacturing And Trafficking In Firearms, Their Parts And Components And Ammunition, Supplementing The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
- The integration of these norms and standards with policies against illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, terrorist financing and the strengths of national criminal justice systems
- The promotion of robust and coherent national frameworks for statistical record keeping, intelligence analysis and sharing
- The review of security arrangements at national armories and weapons disposal systems



In conclusion Trinidad and Tobago views international financial assistance as a critical imperative in fulfilling the goals of the Programme of Action.