



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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Statement by

Ms. Melissa Boissiere

First Secretary

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

At the

49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development

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United Nations Headquarters, New York

April 15, 2016

Madam Chair,

At the outset we wish to express our deep appreciation to the co-facilitators for their arduous and excellent work in conducting difficult negotiations on the resolution on the special theme of the 49<sup>th</sup> session of this Commission, and to congratulate you and the team on the successful outcome.

We also express our appreciation to the Secretariat and to UNFPA for their support throughout the process.

Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to have joined in consensus on this important resolution, being the first adopted at a session of this Commission following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is expected to guide our efforts to achieve sustainable development over the next 15 years, as we seek to ensure that no one is left behind in our societies.

Madam Chair,

We remain strongly committed to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as harmful practices which violate their human rights. We wish to express, however, our reservation on the term “early marriage” in OP9 of the text. As we have explained on a number of occasions, the term “early” is vague and undefined. We also believe that the assertion made in this paragraph in particular is inaccurate, as well as inconsistent with our national legislation. We therefore look forward to the opportunity to continue discussions on the use of the term in the near future in an effort to find a formulation that may more accurately reflect the important issues it seeks to address.

In closing, we reiterate our appreciation to all who have contributed to the successful outcome of this 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development, and request that this statement be reflected in the official records of this meeting.

I thank you.