

**INTERVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR UNTOC 14<sup>TH</sup> Session**  
**WRG 11-12 September 2023, Vienna, Austria.**

**Mr. Chair,**

Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for the opportunity to make this intervention on behalf of the GORTT,

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago not only understands but highly values the need for international and multilateral cooperation. To this end, Trinidad and Tobago is a party to various multilateral treaties dealing with criminal matters, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters inclusive of the UNTOC Convention

Apart from the legislative adjustments to the MACMA, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago also engages in informal cooperative efforts to further the objective of the UNTOC. As recently as July, 2023, a request for support was received from the US Department of Justice, through collaboration with US Homeland Security Investigations, to provide a Victim Impact Statement (*“the Statement”*) for an ongoing criminal matter regarding the smuggling of firearms. The three (3) accused were charged with conspiracy to smuggle a large quantity of firearms, firearms components and related items from the US into Trinidad and Tobago between 2019 and 2022. Two (2) of the accused, 30-year-old Tevin Oliver and 31-year-old Jameal Kaia Phillip, are nationals of Trinidad and Tobago and their cases were heard at the US District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

The GORTT was proactive in providing assistance to the US Department of Justice in this matter having prepared a Statement which highlighted the elevated use of firearms in the commission of serious crimes. The Statement illustrated the grave impacts of firearms trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago, including the significant erosion of public safety and security, fueling of gang violence and loss of life. This escalating domestic epidemic has undermined social cohesion and hindered our nation’s progress.

The GORTT furnished a signed copy of the Statement to the US Department of Justice, which was then submitted to US District Judge Steven Merryday for consideration at the sentencing hearings held in July 2023. As a result, both accused persons, who entered into plea agreements, received the maximum sentence of fifty-seven (57) months.

I thank you.