



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT

BY

MR. VLADAMIR BUDHU,

SECOND SECRETARY

ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE ECOSOC DIALOGUE

ON

THE LONGER-TERM POSITIONING OF THE UN

DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7 July

Economic and Social Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters

Mr. President,

At the outset, Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statements delivered by Thailand, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the statement to be delivered by the Maldives, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Allow me to first express my delegation's appreciation to you Ambassador Palma, for your leadership throughout the ECOSOC Dialogue, and congratulate you for the successful conclusion of a process that has been very informative and constructive. I also wish to welcome the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Independent Teams of Advisors (ITA) and the UN Development Group for their excellent work, which they conducted on a very tight schedule; Trinidad and Tobago thanks them for their hard work and invaluable input, and we believe that both sets of proposals provide an excellent basis for the upcoming negotiations on the QCPR resolution later this year.

Mr. President,

An ambitious and transformative Agenda requires a significant transformation in the way the United Nations Development System approaches sustainable development. I think we can all agree that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda is hinged on the working methods of the UN Development System. The principles and mandates within the 2030 Development Agenda are crucial to the very existence of Member States in special situations including Small Island Developing States, such as Trinidad and Tobago.

In this regard, when considering the positioning of the UNDS as a system that is "fit-for-purpose", it is important that we do not lose sight of the unique vulnerabilities and development challenges facing SIDS. Therefore, my delegation joins with others in encouraging the UNDS to continue its efforts to fully support the integration of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, which includes the SAMOA Pathway and other Programmes of Action, into national development strategies.

Bearing these things in mind, Mr. President, I wish to make a few short comments on the findings of put forward by the ITA and the UNDG.

It is important that any proposals taken on board must reflect the principles of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda. In particular, the principles of universality and diversity, this speaks about the universal nature of the Agenda, and the need for system-wide support to be tailored to specific country needs. We ought not to continue the practice of using income per capita as the criteria for development assistance and capacity building. It is outdated and does not reflect the realities facing many developing countries, especially SIDS. Trinidad and Tobago is of the view that the UNDS should be driven by multidimensional approach to development assessment based on national priorities and specific needs. This is crucial to the achievement of the SDGs across the world. We must avoid falling into the trap of a one-size-fits-all approach to sustainable development.

Trinidad and Tobago is also of the view that strengthening the Resident Coordinator is crucial to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. Not only should specific focus be placed on the qualifications and experience of resident coordinators, but based on the findings and conclusions of the ITA and UNDG, there is also a need to empower them with the necessary authority to coordinate all UN activities under their purview, while at the same time bearing in mind the need to keep all actions transparent and those in leadership positions accountable.

On this same point, Trinidad and Tobago believes that there is also a need for better linkages between the UN Resident Coordinators and Regional Commissions. Collaboration with regional commissions will provide a regional perspective that supports the Resident Coordinator system in the wide elaboration of a regional development framework and policy coherence that will lead to better delivery on the ground.

In closing Mr. President, Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to the summary of these discussions, and remains committed to actively engaging in the next steps to recalibrate the UNDS to implement the 2030 Agenda, in a manner that is coherent, effective and efficient.

I thank you.