



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

BY

**THE HONOURABLE BHOENDRADATT TEWARIE,  
MINISTER OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

AT THE

**EIGHTH CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING  
THE ENTRY INTO FORCE  
OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY**

UN Headquarters,  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2013

Mr. Chairman

On behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago I have the honour to participate in this Conference which is being convened in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Trinidad and Tobago ratified the CTBT because it is consistent with our support for the international nuclear non-proliferation regime in particular, and disarmament in general. Adherence to the provisions of the CTBT is also a further demonstration of our longstanding commitment to a rules based regime governing the international relations among States.

Our support for this Treaty was underscored by the Honourable Mrs. Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, who in the September 2011 edition of the Spectrum, published by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), indicated that: "the CTBT stands as a beacon, lighting the path towards a peaceful world, free from nuclear explosions, whether for military or for peaceful purposes. For this reason, Trinidad and Tobago signed the CTBT on 8 October 2009 and ratified it on 26 May 2010."

On that occasion, the Prime Minister also described how CTBT monitoring data can be used for disaster mitigation, especially by providing faster tsunami warnings, and outlined efforts to establish a tsunami warning system in the Caribbean.

As part of this effort, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has partnered with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to strengthen our capacity to detect, monitor and provide early warning of tsunamis and related geologic hazards; and facilitate the development of information sharing policies between earthquake monitoring agencies in the Caribbean, Central America and the northern countries on the South American continent.

We are also committed to strengthening the capacity of the Seismic Research Centre at the campus of the University of the West Indies located in Trinidad to detect, monitor and warn persons at risk from tsunami and other related geologic hazards. This institution, the Seismic Research Centre at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad is also now engaged in a ten-year microzonation exercise for the entire country in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman

Trinidad and Tobago therefore recognizes the importance of the entry into force of the Treaty not only as part of the architecture that is required for the maintenance of international peace and security which is an important component for the achievement of sustainable development globally, but also for its public safety component through the capacity of the CTBTO machinery which can track radiation released after nuclear plant accidents and venting from underground tests.

Trinidad and Tobago is also interested in the seismic and hydro-acoustic technology, with the capacity for rapidly acquiring and disseminating data on potentially tsunami-generating earthquakes and generating research on climate change.

The indispensable contribution of the CTBTO monitoring system to global safety and security has already proved to be a vital asset, during the devastating 9.0 magnitude, tsunami-generating earthquake which struck Japan in March 2011, the data from the CTBTO monitoring stations allowed Japanese authorities to issue tsunami warnings within a few minutes, thereby allowing many people to escape to higher grounds. The CTBTO data also allowed for early tsunami warnings to Japan's neighbours, as well as, to the wider Pacific region

Mr. Chairman

While having at its core the global ban on nuclear explosive testing, it is evident that the numerous civilian benefits which can be obtained from the entire CTBT process, establishes this Treaty as an important vehicle to assist States, especially developing countries to enhance their capacity to mitigate the effects of certain environmental disasters and it is these civilian benefits which Trinidad and Tobago wishes to emphasize.

It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman that Trinidad and Tobago respectfully requests that the eight (8) remaining Annex 2 countries ratify the CTBT in order to enable its entry into force.

In closing Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago pledges to continue its efforts aimed at the full implementation of its legally binding obligations which flow from the CTBT.

Thank you.