

Contribution by Trinidad and Tobago to the Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES77/55 (2022) entitled ‘Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control’

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its full commitment to the achievement of the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In that context, Trinidad and Tobago has piloted General Assembly resolution on ‘Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control’ since 2010, to bring to the fore, the urgent need to strengthen efforts to ensure that women are equally represented in all spheres, including at all levels of decision-making processes within the context of peace and security. As the international community approaches the halfway point in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Trinidad and Tobago continues to prioritize mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women in disarmament diplomacy.

Linking resolution 75/55 to related agendas facilitates the effective implementation of the objectives outlined in said resolution, including Action 36 of the Agenda for Disarmament of the Secretary-General, on the full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes and action 37, on gender parity on disarmament bodies established by the Secretariat. We welcome links made in resolution 75/55 to the women, peace and security agenda, which recognizes the role of women, including as leaders and mediators in conflict prevention, conflict responses and peace processes and to the SDGs relevant to the promotion of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Trinidad and Tobago, as a country which comes from a region that is not severely affected by situations of armed conflict but is nevertheless facing enormous challenges with the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and the consequent increase in armed violence within its borders, sees as crucial, the need to promote initiatives at the United Nations and elsewhere which focus attention on gender equality in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Consequently, Trinidad and Tobago has taken a number of steps to implement resolution 77/55 and promote the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including but not limited to the following:

- In 2024, an Advisory Committee was established to develop the first Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan (Security Council resolution 1325);
- In May 2024, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago co-hosted the Women, Peace and Security Caribbean National Action Plan Convening, with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and Our Secure Future (OSF), a non-governmental organization which aims to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security movement and supports the mandate of resolution 1325;

- The ascendancy of women to senior ranks of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, for instance, the position of Commissioner of Police which is the highest office in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), is currently occupied by a woman;
- Since its launch in 2020, the Gender-based Violence Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service has expanded to encompass all nine policing divisions across the country, with ongoing training and capacity-building at its forefront. Training includes workshops and awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence and the law, human and children's rights, investigation of domestic violence and sexual offence;
- Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on capacity-building initiatives, which include strategic partnerships with agencies such as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). The Regional Centre has collaborated with the Ministry of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago to host seminars in Port of Spain on preventing armed violence against women through arms control.

At the multilateral level, Trinidad and Tobago has ratified and currently implements a number of international treaties and United Nations programmes on arms control and disarmament that actively promote women's participation, including the Arms Trade Treaty, which importantly, is the first legally binding instrument to recognize the connection between the international arms trade and gender-based violence (GBV); and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Moreover, Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the important contributions of United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and civil society in conducting research and promoting awareness of the importance of gender equality in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Finally, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to the advancement and empowerment of women and remains resolved to continue working with other Member States and partners at the regional, hemispheric and global levels to ensure the full engagement of women at all levels, including decision-making, in all aspects of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to promote the involvement of women as equal partners in matters related to peace and security. Trinidad and Tobago will continue to robustly support international and regional initiatives to advance these goals and strongly encourages Member States to report on their progress made in the field of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
