



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT

by

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Madam President

Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on your election to the Presidency of the 61st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As the third woman ever to hold this esteemed position, your appointment is of special significance and must be duly recognized. Trinidad and Tobago is convinced that your extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy and international legal expertise adequately equip you to guide the work of this Assembly to a successful conclusion.

We take this opportunity as well to welcome most warmly the Republic of Montenegro as the 192nd Member of the United Nations and wish its people and government continued peace, stability and prosperity.

We would also wish on this occasion Madame President, to recognize the astute and efficient leadership of the President of the 60th Session, Mr. Jan Eliasson of Sweden who

defender of all that this Organisation stands for, and to which our countries all subscribe.

Mr. Secretary General, there is so much that you have done that history will record. For us it suffices that you have been the beacon in keeping the U.N. ideal alive during these difficult times.

Madame President, the role of the Secretary-General in the twenty-first century is no longer that of a mere chief administrative officer, burdensome as that may be, but one that requires profound knowledge of the dynamics of current inter-state relations.

Trinidad and Tobago is hopeful therefore that as we elect a successor to Secretary

General Kofi Annan, the Security Council will recommend to the General Assembly a person

whose diplomatic skills are highly regarded, whose leadership abilities are well recognized, and who will be able to maintain an excellent working relationship with all Member States and enjoy

It is incumbent on us to institute immediate measures to provide security and alleviate

responsible for the crimes against humanity committed in Darfur.

Trinidad and Tobago exhorts the Government in Khartoum to accept the presence of a United Nations-mandated peacekeeping force that would enhance the capacity to monitor the Darfur Peace Agreement. Such a force could also provide the necessary security for the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons in make-shift camps and for the return of refugees

Madame President, global peace and security are also threatened by a failure on the part of the international community to bring about the necessary structural changes in the fields of international trade and in economic and financial relations.

Like most developing countries, Trinidad and Tobago is painfully aware of the significant

govern the international arms trade.

Trinidad and Tobago therefore strongly endorses the call by some States for the conclusion of such an instrument. We are also of the view that until such time as such a treaty becomes a reality, it is imperative that the major producers and exporters of small arms and light weapons establish comprehensive export controls in order to ensure that such weapons are not diverted into the illicit trade.

Madame President, Trinidad and Tobago's approach to development places primary focus on enhancing the living standards and access of well-being of the people of the country.

address the major problems of a global nature we should not forget those among us that face greater challenges in realizing their full potential. The international community has recently become increasingly sensitized to the difficulties faced in almost all spheres of activity by persons with disabilities and during the 60th Session of the General Assembly successfully

areas of international interaction, be it for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights or humanitarian assistance. It is a position that informs a fierce defence of multilateralism in full recognition of the benefits of collective action and of the responsibility of each country to assist when in a position to do so within the limits of its resources. This thinking underlies the actions taken by Trinidad and Tobago in respect of the provision of economic and humanitarian assistance both institutionally as well as directly to countries in our region and to those further afield.