



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

Mrs. Joanne Deoraj

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Planning and Development

Welcome Remarks

**Sustainable Development Goals Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS)  
Mission 2017**

**SALUTATIONS**

The Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Planning and Development.

Present Ministers of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.  
(TCU to confirm)

Fellow Permanent Secretaries of the Trinidad and Tobago Government system.

Ms. Marie Hinds and Ms. Beverly Khan, Deputy Permanent Secretaries of the  
Ministry of Planning and Development and all staff of the Ministry of Planning  
and Development.

Mr. Richard Blewitt, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Country Team, and  
representatives of the United Nations System present.

Mr. Nik Sekhran and the UN MAPS Mission Team.

All other specially invited guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the launch of the Sustainable Development  
Goals Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Mission. In the

spirit of collaboration and cooperation, the United Nations made this offer to the Ministry of Planning and Development in December 2016 to undertake this Mission focused on further aligning the intended outcomes of the National Development Strategy (2016-2030), Vision 2030, to the Sustainable Development Goals also known as the 2030 Agenda. As the Ministry charged with the task of coordinating the national development strategy, we graciously accepted the offer, bringing us to this point today, which is the start of a seven day process involving a series of meetings, working sessions and discussions with stakeholder representatives to help us to continue to chart the best way forward for the development of Trinidad and Tobago, which is the greater journey upon which we are embarking.

We are honoured that you have all seen the importance of participating in this process and it is also encouraging to us that we will hear your views not only during the Mission, but beyond, as we continue the process of working towards the benefit of all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. We have invited members of the labour unions, the private sector, media, academia, civil society groups working in the social, economic and environmental segments all dedicated to ensuring the well-being of our nation to be part of this important process.

With the theme ‘Many hearts, many voices, one vision’, an inclusive approach to national development is sought. This vision will not be achieved if only one segment of the population is working for it, or if we cannot make our desires for the future we want for Trinidad and Tobago rise in unison to a call that has been answered across the world by over 100 nations who have ratified the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have a dedicated partner in the United Nations, we know we have dedicated partners in you. Let us keep in mind that what we do today is not for today alone,

but for the future of our nation's children, for our environment and for all that we hold dear.

I wish you all fruitful and successful sessions. And God bless us all.