

Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 19/34 “The Right to Development”

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Ministry of the Attorney General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been asked to comment on the right to development criteria that has been produced by the Working Group on the Right to Development.

According to the Report of the High-level Task Force on the Implementation of the Right to Development, criteria were designed to assess the extent to which States are individually and collectively taking steps to establish, promote and sustain national and international arrangements that create an enabling environment for the realization of the right to development. The responsibility for the creation of this enabling environment encompasses three (3) main levels:

- a) States acting collectively in global and regional partnerships;
- b) States acting individually as they adopt and implement policies that affect persons not strictly within their jurisdiction; and
- c) States acting individually as they formulate national development policies and programmes affecting persons within their jurisdiction.

The criteria were categorized under three (3) attributes, namely:

1. Comprehensive and human-centered development policy;
2. Participatory human rights processes; and
3. Social justice in development.

On examination of the criteria under these three (3) attributes, the Ministry of the Attorney General poses no objection to an assessment on these criteria. The sub-criteria and indicators are not in conflict with any domestic legislation or policy or international obligation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

However, the Ministry of the Attorney General notes with concern that the issue of citizen security was not sufficiently emphasized. Although it is acknowledged that the issue of peace and security was included in the criteria and security in the workplace was also mentioned as sub-criteria, the Ministry of the Attorney General is of the view that an important aspect of assessing development is the right to security of the person in relation to violent crime. As part of this assessment, therefore, it may be important to consider including the competency of the protective services and the judicial system in detecting and prosecuting violent crimes in the right to development criteria.

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