

**Statement by  
Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations Office  
and Other International Organisations in Geneva  
at the  
General Debate of the  
3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent**

**Theme: The Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Addressing Systemic Racism,  
Reparatory Justice, and Sustainable Development**

*Tuesday 16 April 2024*

Thank you, Madam Chair.

First, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago extends warm congratulations to Dr. Soomer on her appointment as Chair of the Forum. We also align with the statement delivered on behalf of CARICOM Delegations in Geneva.

Undoubtedly, Chair, 2024 represents a key inflection point in the pursuit of reparatory justice. As we approach the end of the International Decade of People of African Descent, and pursue heightened advocacy for a second International Decade, the centrality of a reparatory justice framework as a basis for dismantling the legacies of slavery is undeniable.

Against the backdrop of growing calls for reparatory justice, including by UN experts last month, on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, my delegation recognises the critical work undertaken by the Permanent Forum, Member States and key stakeholders since the second session in 2023.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in particular, has continued to play a leading role in these discussions on reparatory justice, among others, as elaborated for example, in the region's 10-Point Action Plan for reparatory justice. We also attach importance to the Bridgetown Initiative, as we view meaningful reform of the international financial architecture as indispensable for addressing structural inequalities and economic paradigms that have long hindered our pursuit of sustainable development and the wellbeing of our people.

*Time allotted: 2 minutes*

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Trinidad and Tobago, as a member of CARICOM, remains committed to advancing this cause given the nexus between the calls for reparatory justice in the form of social and economic compensation and development, on the one hand, and the pursuit of sustainable, and inclusive, development on the other. In this connection, we encourage consideration of the outcomes of the Accra Reparations Conference in November 2023. We also highlight, in this regard, the existence of the reconstituted Trinidad and Tobago National Committee on Reparations, and we reiterate the calls made by our Prime Minister for bold and targeted action toward reparatory justice.

As converging global crises continue to disproportionately affect People of African Descent, the opportunity must be seized to address, frontally, systemic challenges. The discussions during this session will no doubt provide a sound framework for such.

I thank you.

*Time allotted: 2 minutes*