



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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## STATEMENT

by

Mr. Eden Charles  
First Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations

on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  
in the Sixth Committee

on

Agenda Item (108) Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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United Nations Headquarters  
New York  
October 10, 2007

Mr Chairman,

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago has the honour and privilege to speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community. We also wish to associate ourselves with the Statement made by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM Member States condemn unreservedly international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever committed and by whomsoever. Such acts have no respect for the lives of its innocent victims and seek to instil fear in the societies targeted.

The United Nations has progressively taken steps to address this threat to international peace and security through the adoption of a wide range of international conventions and protocols against various acts of terrorism including nuclear terrorism and more recently through the adoption of a global counter-terrorism strategy.

CARICOM Member States, however, deeply regret the failure of international efforts thus far to conclude a comprehensive convention on International Terrorism. The multilateral negotiating process is the only internationally acceptable and legitimate means to ensure that all Member States of the United Nations participate as sovereign equals in the negotiation of a binding international legal instrument which would seek to prevent and punish terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, but in doing so would not derogate from the fundamental and inalienable right under international law to self determination of peoples under colonial and alien domination and foreign occupation. We, in CARICOM, will continue to participate actively in the deliberations of the Ad hoc Committee established by resolution 51/210 and call on all Member States to resolve their differences in a spirit of compromise with a view to bringing this matter to a successful conclusion at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Member States of CARICOM are committed to upholding the international rule of law as a defence against the threats posed to their own safety and to that of other members of the international community by terrorist acts. It is for this reason that CARICOM States are in large measure parties to the thirteen (13) counter-terrorism conventions and, in some cases, have enacted legislation to give domestic legal effect to their obligations under these international legal instruments. In addition, CARICOM Member States have also sought to implement the provisions of UN Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1540, and to comply with their reporting obligations

there under despite their burdensome nature. We, moreover stress in this regard, the need for cooperation among States in the gathering and sharing of intelligence and in the extradition of persons accused of terrorists acts.

Mr. Chairman,

The Carribean region has not been spared the commission of a dastardly act of terrorism which resulted in the lost of many young innocent lives some thirty-one (31) years ago. The alleged perpetrator accused of that act of international terrorism is yet to face justice. It is for this reason that we urge that terrorism be categorised as one of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community and that its perpetrators be prosecuted in the same manner as those accused of other heinous crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

In this respect consideration could be given to the complementary role that the International Criminal Court (ICC) could play in the prosecution of individuals accused of terrorist acts. We, therefore, call for serious consideration to be given to amending the Rome Statute of the ICC as foreseen in Resolution E of the Final Act of the 1998 Rome Conference on the ICC, to include the offence of terrorism as a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court once a definition of that crime is adopted.

I thank you.