Statement

by

Ms. Melissa Boisserie
Head of Delegation
Permanent Mission the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
to the United Nations, New York

at the

Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact
of Nuclear Weapons

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Nayarit, Mexico
February 14, 2014
Distinguished co-chairs,

On behalf of my Government let me first join others in thanking the Government of Mexico for its hosting and excellent organization of this important Conference, as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its assistance to facilitate participation. We also thank all of the speakers for their enlightening and motivating presentations.

Although Trinidad and Tobago is not a nuclear weapon State and is not directly affected by nuclear weapons, as a responsible member of the international community we strongly support efforts aimed at non-proliferation, evident in our ratification of various instruments such as the Treaty of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the anniversary of which we celebrate today.

Trinidad and Tobago is also proud to be part of the vanguard of the introduction of nuclear weapon free zones, as part of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Additionally, we joined our region’s consensus on the urgent need to advance towards nuclear disarmament, and complete and general elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as towards the negotiation of a universal and legally binding instrument which prohibits their use.

The information presented both in Oslo and at this Conference, which provides valuable insight into the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, including that we can all be affected by a nuclear detonation, whether it is intended or accidental, reaffirms the need for a preventive approach by moving towards complete disarmament, as well as the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons.

In closing, while we will continue to be engaged on this issue and utilize opportunities to expand our knowledge and understanding of the same, we hope that these discussions would build the momentum needed to take concrete steps to prevent intended or accidental nuclear detonations, since we are cognizant of the unmanageable, far reaching, and long lasting consequences of such an incident. We remain ready to work with the international community towards this end, and in this context welcome the decision of the Austrian Government to host the Third Conference later this year, which would provide a platform for continued engagement on this subject.

We also commend civil society on their invaluable work in seeking to have this disconcerting issue addressed, and encourage their continued efforts in this regard.

I thank you.