STATEMENT

BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR PENNELOPE BECKLES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE
THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

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Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We also align with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We also wish to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election to preside over this most important meeting.

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago commends you on the open and transparent manner in which you have conducted informal consultations in the lead up to this process and indeed, we agree that the groundwork has been laid for a successful Review Conference.

My delegation welcomes the draft Outcome Document as we believe that it forms a good basis for our deliberations going forward.

Mr. President,

For Trinidad and Tobago, this Third Review Conference does not only provide an opportunity to ascertain the gaps in the implementation of the PoA but it should also serve as a means for the examination of possibilities to strengthen or enhance the PoA. Consequently, we reiterate our hope that the outcome document of this meeting remains expansive and less restrictive.

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to fulfilling all aspects of the PoA, which include the following:

- Identifying and destroying stocks of surplus and excessive accumulations of small arms and light weapons;
- Keeping track of officially-held guns;
- Marking guns at point of manufacture for identification and tracing;
- Engaging in more information exchange;
- Maintaining records of gun manufacture.

Like some delegations that spoke before, my country reiterates that the illicit trade in ammunition is one of our priority areas during this Review Conference and
submits that any discourse on the POA would be deficient without deliberations on the important issue of ammunition within the context of this process.

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago continues to encourage exploration of the synergies between the Arms Trade Treaty and the POA.

My delegation is also of the view between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the small arms and light weapons agenda should be recognized. We submit that effective implementation of the SDGs, particularly Goal 16.4, cannot take place in a vacuum, separate from important ongoing processes such as within the framework of this Review Conference. We submit further that the international community must also highlight how the POA can benefit the SDGs and support human security at the national, regional and international levels.

Mr. President,

It is vital to consider gender and small arms from the perspective of the impact of these weapons on women. It means also acknowledging women as agents of change and “a key resource in combating such violence.” Trinidad and Tobago is supportive of the language contained in the section on Gender, including Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)… in the draft Outcome Document which is in line with the General Assembly resolution piloted by Trinidad and Tobago on ‘Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control’ and which will again be tabled in the 73rd Session of the First Committee in October of this year.

Additionally, we continue to maintain that cooperation at the multilateral level is essential to assist developing countries in implementing the PoA. Ample evidence of our support for this approach continues to be exemplified through the ongoing support and collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Further, it would be remiss if my delegation fails to highlight the important role of civil society in the POA process and we encourage their continued partnership with Governments, in this regard.

In closing, Mr. President, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to reiterate its commitment
to work with all members of the international community as it continues to fulfill its obligations which flow from the PoA, as well as, international treaties and conventions to which it is a State Party.

Thank you.