

**Statement by Mrs. Candice Shade, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Embassy of the  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, San José, Costa Rica during the Fifth Meeting of  
States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**San José, Costa Rica**

**03 September 2014**

Mr. President

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, it is my distinct honour to address this distinguished audience.

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I extend my sincere appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended by the Government and People of Costa Rica.

Mr. President

Trinidad and Tobago takes note of, and congratulates the efforts being made internationally to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions. Recognising that this is an ongoing process and that universality is the ultimate aim, we encourage the increased accession and adherence to this Convention.

Trinidad and Tobago participated in the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in November 2010 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Trinidad and Tobago also participated in the Regional Conference on the Promotion of the Universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Chile in December 2013. That Seminar aimed to further widen adherence to the Convention within Latin America and the Caribbean, foster national implementation efforts, and also set criteria for the early establishment of a cluster munitions-free zone in the region.

While Trinidad and Tobago neither produces nor stockpiles cluster munitions, accession to this Convention on 21 September 2011 demonstrates our continued commitment to the universal principles of international peace and security.

This commitment is very much evidenced by the fact that Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to be bound by the provisions of a number of international Instruments aimed at eliminating or reducing the considerable humanitarian carnage occasioned by the indiscriminate use of weapons to cause widespread suffering, injury and death. These include treaties pertaining to conventional, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

The Arms Trade Treaty was the latest such Treaty signed and ratified by Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. President

The ATT is a special instrument. The Treaty involved the regulation of the international trade in conventional weapons and incorporates provisions on international human rights and international human rights law, and in the latter respect, shares similarities with the Cluster Munitions Convention. Both Conventions give consideration to the fact that civilians, especially women and children, account for the majority of victims affected by armed conflict and armed violence.

Indeed, of the 109 Signatories to the Cluster Munitions Convention, 88 have signed the ATT which also seeks to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security.

During the negotiation process for the ATT, Trinidad and Tobago was a principal proponent of the view that an effective treaty requires an effective Secretariat. I therefore take this opportunity to announce that Trinidad and Tobago has offered to host the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty.

As we are on the cusp of the 50<sup>th</sup> ratification of the ATT, following which the ATT will enter into force, Trinidad and Tobago calls on the support of all like-minded States to ensure the successful implementation of the ATT as well as those treaties aimed at disarmament and non-proliferation.

I thank you.