



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 7, 2024

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

#### **Senator the Honourable Donna Cox presents Trinidad and Tobago's National Statement at CSocD62**

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services delivered the National Statement of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on February 6, 2024, at the Sixty-Second Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) being held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from February 5-14, 2024. The theme of this year's session, **“Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to Accelerate Progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to Achieve the Overarching Goal of Poverty Eradication,”** reflects the global resolution to addressing multifaceted challenges.

During her address, Minister Cox reaffirmed the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's dedication to nurturing an inclusive society devoid of marginalization. This dedication extends to ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens, irrespective of gender, age, disability, or any other defining attribute, across all facets of national life, including access to social services and employment. Furthermore, it emphasizes the paramount importance of safeguarding the well-being and dignity of every individual, fostering a culture of respect and compassion for all members of society.

Minister Cox conveyed that the primary objective of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is to diligently guarantee, *“that its society evolves into one in which no one is left behind, where all citizens, including women, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, are afforded equal opportunity in every sphere of national life, including in access to social services and to decent work; where all citizens are cared for and treated with dignity and respect.”*

Additionally, Minister Cox reaffirmed Trinidad and Tobago's unwavering dedication, *“to actively reduce multidimensional poverty and vulnerabilities by strengthening our social protection system, applying robust research data collection techniques, working along with our social protection partners to direct resources to those in greatest needs; and ensuring that our social support services are efficient, targeted and effective.”*

The CSocD62 will not only focus on the theme but also delve into the emerging issue of "The Influence of Digital Transformation on Inclusive Growth and Development: A Path to Achieving Social Justice." Additionally, the Commission will commemorate the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the International Year of the Family and conduct a comprehensive review of relevant UN plans and programmes of action concerning the situation of social groups.

Accompanying Minister Cox is a delegation from the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSFDS), including Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons Permanent Secretary and two (2) technical officers. The MSFDS is actively engaging in round table and high-level discussions, including Ministerial Meetings where representatives are sharing insights into national and regional practices, as well as innovative measures aimed at enhancing the integration of social considerations into development frameworks.

Established since the inception of the United Nations, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) plays a crucial role in advising the Economic and Social Council and Governments on a wide range of social policy issues, ensuring a holistic approach to the social perspective of development.

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**For more information:**

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*Senator the Honourable Donna Cox presents Trinidad and Tobago's National Statement at CSocD62 on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.*





*Minister Cox delivers a Statement on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on February 5, 2024 at CSocD62.*





*(l-r) Minister Cox, Permanent Secretary Mrs. Lenor Baptiste–Simmons and His Excellency Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, at the Sixty-Second Session of the Commission for Social Development.*