

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INTERVENTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 3 AT WHA77

Thank you, Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago has joined with the rest of the international community in committing to achieve universal health coverage by 2030. We are doing our part, including by continuing to offer free universal primary healthcare to all our citizens, in full alignment with this Assembly's theme "**All for Health, Health for All**". We are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that health services are optimised and that medical treatments, education, practices and policies are relevant, measurable, technology-driven, innovative and, most importantly, accessible.

Collaborative work continues with such international partners as PAHO and the WHO, with the aim of ensuring that fundamental needs analysis and assessments are regularly conducted to optimise efficiency. The implementation of these quality assurance measures has already resulted in significant improvements to healthcare services related to Blood Transfusion, HIV and AIDS, Women's Health, Mental Health and NCDs.

On efforts to transform our National Blood Transfusion Services to a system of Voluntary Non-Remunerative Blood Donations (VNRBD), I am pleased to report that from June 2022 to the present, we have seen an increase in voluntary donors from 0.5% to 9.5%.

We have reinvigorated our HIV-related efforts, targeting key populations who are statistically more susceptible to contracting the disease. As at December 2022, Trinidad and Tobago had achieved our goal of ensuring that 95% of people living with HIV know their status.

We continue to make strides with respect to women's, children's, and adolescents' health and have already achieved key SDG targets, well in advance of the 2030 deadline. For example, the maternal mortality rate for 2023 was 7.9 per 100 000 live births.

Mental health continues to be a prime area of concern, with efforts underway to decentralise mental health services across the nation, making them more accessible as a community-based model of care.

On NCDs, the number one cause of premature deaths in Trinidad and Tobago, we have strengthened our focus on behaviour change and modification strategies. The data collected in the ongoing National STEPS Survey will contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and interventions to prevent and control NCDs. In addition, our healthy lifestyles movement called TT Moves is gaining momentum across the country.

Our commitment to our Universal Healthcare obligations can further be seen in investments in healthcare infrastructure and efforts to improve the quality of care delivered by nurses and physicians through re-training workshops.

Mr. President, our public healthcare policymakers will continue to focus on ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare services for all, as part of the broader push to achieve our WHO-related SDG targets by 2030.

I thank you!