

**Trinidad and Tobago Intervention
under Agenda Item 20.1
Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative
79th World Health Assembly**

Friday 22 May 2026

Thank you, Chair,

Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the reform of the Global Health Architecture and its alignment with the UN80 initiative. This initiative would be particularly beneficial for Trinidad and Tobago because it directly addresses the structural challenges faced in global health governance. For Small Island Developing States, health systems are uniquely vulnerable to external shocks, such as climate-related risks, supply chain disruptions, and limited financing. We strongly support the emphasis on country-led approaches, which ensure that our priorities are not overshadowed and that equity and solidarity remain central to global health governance.

We note the initiative's commitment to have diverse stakeholder engagement, which will allow meaningful participation of civil society, youth, and affected communities and strengthen trust and ownership.

The focus on sustainable financing and inclusive engagement is welcomed as predictable resources, which are aligned with national priorities, are essential for building resilient health systems.

In short, this reform process will offer a stronger voice, fairer financing, and a more responsive global health system, helping to build resilience against both everyday health challenges and major crises.

Trinidad and Tobago stands ready to engage actively in this process and urges that the reform process remains attentive to the needs of small and vulnerable States, so that by the 80th World Health Assembly we may achieve a modern, coherent, and responsive global health system.

I thank you.