

**Trinidad and Tobago – National Statement
under Agenda Item 3 – General Discussion
79th World Health Assembly**

Tuesday 19th May 2026

Thank you, Mr. President.

As we reflect on the theme of this Assembly, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to building resilient, equitable and sustainable health systems in the face of increasingly complex public health realities.

We continue to pursue the strengthening of public healthcare delivery through strategic reform, regional cooperation, and sustainable investment in health, in keeping with international standards. We recognise the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and remain steadfast in our efforts to achieve the 2030 SDG targets.

Guided by our national development priorities and health sector transformation agenda, we are pursuing a modernized and more responsive health system that places people at the centre of care, expands access, and improves health outcomes for all citizens, including through digitalization efforts.

In recent months, Trinidad and Tobago has advanced several key initiatives aimed at improving service delivery and national resilience through:

- strengthening pharmaceutical and medical supply-chain management systems;
- expanding digital health and data-driven decision-making;
- improving specialist healthcare access through international partnerships; and
- enhancing public health preparedness and surveillance systems for emerging and re-emerging diseases.

We also continue to prioritize the prevention and control of NCDs – a major regional public health challenge. Through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, we are advancing public education, health promotion, and preventative interventions, consistent with the Port of Spain Declaration and WHO frameworks on NCD prevention and control. We also signal the importance of promoting equitable access to digital health technologies to address NCDs and mental health conditions.

Finally, Mr. President, the evolving global health landscape demands stronger partnerships, sustainable financing and renewed commitment to multilateralism. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Trinidad and Tobago therefore remains committed to working closely with the WHO, PAHO, CARICOM and other regional and international partners to build stronger, more resilient, and more equitable health systems equipped to meet both current and future challenges, and ensure that no country is left behind.

I thank you.