

**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 prioritize the strengthening of public healthcare delivery through strategic reform, regional cooperation, and sustainable investment in health, thereby reiterating our commitment to achieving better health outcomes for all (equity and accessibility) while adhering to international standards. Trinidad and Tobago recognises the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and remains steadfast in its efforts to achieve SDG 2030 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, through making efforts to embrace digitalization within the health sector.

In recent months, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Health, has advanced several important initiatives aimed at improving service delivery and national resilience. These include efforts to strengthen pharmaceutical and medical supply-chain management systems, expand digital health and data-driven decision-making, improve specialist healthcare access through international partnerships, and enhance public health preparedness and surveillance systems for emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Trinidad and Tobago also continues to prioritize the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which remain a major public health challenge within our region. Through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, we are advancing public education, health promotion, and preventative interventions consistent with the commitments of the Port of Spain Declaration and WHO frameworks on NCD prevention and control. We support the importance of addressing the digital divide in health, between and within countries, to promote equitable access to digital health technologies to address non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions and prevent the exacerbation of health inequities.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Trinidad and Tobago recognises that global health security and sustainable development can only be achieved through solidarity, multilateral cooperation, and strengthened international partnerships. We therefore remain committed to working closely with the WHO, PAHO, CARICOM and other international partners to build stronger, more resilient, and more equitable health systems capable of meeting both current and future challenges. Trinidad and Tobago endorses initiatives to reinforce research, strengthen data and public health surveillance to monitor progress of all health initiatives.

Mr. President, the evolving global health landscape demands stronger partnerships, sustainable financing and renewed commitment to multilateralism. Trinidad and Tobago therefore supports continued collaboration through the WHO and regional institutions to ensure that no country is left behind.

I thank you.