
**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



STATEMENT

by

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FIRST SECRETARY**

**DURING THE FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSION
ON
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

73RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Guyana on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

For Trinidad and Tobago, like many countries of our region, the security, development and human rights of our citizens continue to be adversely affected as a result of the cross-border illegal activity associated with the unlawful trade in small arms and light weapons and its associated ammunition.

However, experience has taught us that these unfortunate realities can be successfully confronted if we adopt a collaborative approach based upon the UN-POA, and related instruments such as the International Tracing Instrument, the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty.

My delegation therefore reiterates the importance we place on the UN-POA, as an important instrument in mobilizing international cooperation to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. While we strive for consensus during negotiations on substantive issues related to the POA, we welcome the outcome document of the recently concluded Third Review Conference. We are pleased that the outcome document has upheld the recognition of the linkages between small arms issues and gender perspectives. We are also pleased with the inclusion of overt references to ammunition whereas States that apply provisions of the POA to small arms and light weapons ammunition can exchange and as appropriate, apply relevant experiences, lessons learned and best practices acquired within the framework of other relevant instruments to which the State is a party.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged by the forward momentum over the past four years to regulate and monitor conventional weapons through the ATT. My delegation believes that with determined efforts from all States, the ATT can become a major step towards bringing the international arms trade fully under the rule of law.

We note the progressive measures that have been taken within the ambit of the Treaty since its entry into force and as States Parties look ahead to the Fifth CSP, we wish to welcome Latvia's decision to make gender and arms related Gender Based Violence the focus of the Presidency and look forward to working with them on this.

My delegation also recognises the role of civil society in promoting gender issues and encourages States to engage with them in this regard.

My delegation wishes to underline that for the ATT to be a success, it must be implemented in good faith by all States Parties including the major manufacturers, exporters and importers of conventional weapons.

We urge all Member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify and implement the ATT, as well as the UN Firearms Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

In this time of global financial and economic uncertainty, many Member States are finding it difficult to mobilize adequate resources to address many issues, including the illegal trade in conventional weapons of all types. Trinidad and Tobago therefore applaud the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) for the increased assistance rendered to the countries of the region, including through capacity building and technical assistance programmes as well as advocacy in a range of peace and security matters relevant to the region.

Mr. Chairman,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions has proven to be a key component of the broader normative framework for the protection of civilians.

It is unambiguously clear that investing in or financing Trinidad and Tobago's accession to the CCM demonstrates our continued commitment to join efforts to end the terrible harm posed by these indiscriminate weapons. We therefore share the perspective that investment in the production of these weapons are a contravention of the CCM.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reiterate its concern with respect to the harm and risks associated with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). It is estimated that thousands, if not more civilians, have been killed, injured or displaced as a result of this technology. Due to their unique characteristics, armed UAV operations raise particular implications for the maintenance of international peace and security. My delegation therefore highlights the ethical, legal and humanitarian consequences of the use of armed UAVs in a manner incompatible with international law.

I thank you.