



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

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR PENNELOPE BECKLES,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE A LEGALLY-  
BINDING INSTRUMENT TO PROHIBIT NUCLEAR WEAPONS,  
LEADING TOWARDS THEIR TOTAL ELIMINATION**

**TOPIC 3: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**MARCH 31, 2017  
NEW YORK.**

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Madam President,

Trinidad and Tobago associates with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community.

Madam President,

As we turn our attention to *Topic 3: Institutional Arrangements*, my delegation reiterates the following essential elements which should continue to underpin our negotiations on this aspect of the treaty:

1. The humanitarian concerns of nuclear weapons;
2. The ability of the treaty to build upon and reinforce the existing legal framework regarding the prohibition of inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, such as the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Anti-personnel Landmines Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
3. The extent to which the treaty reinforces other instruments that regulate nuclear weapons, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and Nuclear Weapon Free Zone treaties. The treaty must be conceived as an important part of the mandate of the NPT, to pursue multilateral nuclear disarmament in good faith, set out in its Article 6.

Against this backdrop, Madam President, my delegation submits that the treaty's institutional arrangements should contain recognition of the rights of victims, including women, children and the disabled, their challenges and need for assistance, within a broader human rights-based framework.

Additionally, the treaty must include additional practical and legally-binding measures that will ensure the destruction of existing nuclear weapons in an irreversible, verifiable and transparent manner.

Efforts aimed at universalization of the treaty is imperative. In this respect, it is necessary to require states parties to implement national legal, administrative and regulatory measures to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a state under the treaty.

With respect to the entry into force, we support a simple provision that the treaty will require a reasonable number of states to ratify it for it to become binding international law. We are open to discussion regarding the specific details of this point. Moreover, entry into force must not depend on the ratification of any state or group of states, and, as is the case with other weapons-related instruments, no state should be allowed to make reservations to any of the articles of this treaty.

Madam President,

My delegation reiterates that the treaty should provide for international cooperation and assistance to meet the obligations of the instrument, and we support the establishment of an institutional mechanism that would facilitate the treaty's implementation and universalization.

The institutional mechanism could be the repository of the treaty and a centralized structure to manage the operation of the treaty. This mechanism will also be charged with, *inter alia*, organizing review conferences of states parties, promoting the implementation and universalization of the treaty. We also envisage a role for the IAEA.

Finally Madame President, perhaps we could consider civil society as the guardians or watchkeepers of this potential treaty, as they have played an invaluable role in advocating for this process. My delegation therefore supports the inclusion of civil society in this treaty, as instrumental in applying and implementing the treaty, as well in raising awareness regarding the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.