



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION  
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## STATEMENT

H.E. Ambassador **Edwin Charles Charles**

Deputy Permanent Representative

Trinidad and Tobago

in the Sixth Committee

on **REVENUE**

The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

at the 68th Session of the General Assembly

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United Nations Headquarters  
09 October, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago has long been a proponent of the rule of law at the national and international levels. We also agree with the Statements delivered by the delegation of Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the delegation of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/69/597, which has been a significant contribution to the United Nations' work in the past year in promoting and safeguarding the rule of law at the national and international levels.

A year has passed since the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels. The United Nations has reaffirmed its solemn commitment to the rule of law, which is a cornerstone of the United Nations, international law and justice, and to an international system based on the rule of law, which are indispensable foundations for a peaceful, prosperous and just world.

Trinidad and Tobago also pledged to work with other member states in addressing the implementation of the Declaration on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels. Our efforts, and those of other member states, have produced a number of positive results, which are essential for the maintenance of the rule of law. This was exemplified last April, when the General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The adoption of this historic Instrument ensures that there now exist a body of rules to regulate the trade in conventional arms. The entry into force of the ATT would assist in preventing, among other things, the diversion of conventional arms and light weapons and ammunition from the legitimate trade to the illicit market. The diversion of these weapons and other armaments has had adverse effects on the

rule of law in many regions of the world because of the impact of armed violence.

Trinidad and Tobago as one of the seven States which has signed and ratifying the Treaty in order to enable its early entry into force.

Mr. Chairman

On December 12, 2012, the international community commemorated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention). Thirty (3) decades, the Convention has helped to ensure that States observe the rule of law in their international relations. Many of its provisions are accepted as customary international law. Trinidad and Tobago has relied on the Convention in many areas, including for the delimitation of our maritime boundaries as well as the arrangements for the utilization of our maritime boundaries with our neighbours.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, while many States continue to rely on the Convention in discharging their obligations under the law of the sea, there is need for the negotiation of an agreement on a common set of rules governing the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in areas of national jurisdiction. We therefore welcome efforts aimed at establishing the proposed High Seas Resources Agreement. This is essential and would be in place to ensure that the economic and other benefits from the exploration and exploitation of biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction is not done for the benefit of few States with advanced technology, but for the benefit of all.

Mr. Chairman

Trinidad and Tobago is very supportive of the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to re-commence dialogue as a meaningful way of the post-2015 Development Agenda during the 2015 Summit. It is clear that the case with the MDGs, we wish to underscore that respect for the rule of law is an important factor in the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of all our peoples. We therefore look forward to the High-level event on the rule of law, human rights and the rule of law on development.

Mr. Chairman

All Member States are obligated to adhere to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which, among other things, calls for respect of the rule of law in the conduct of their international relations. States are also obligated to enact laws which ensure that there are mechanisms for the provision of justice so that persons accused of crimes do not go unpunished. This principle is even more important when the crimes in question are grave in character and are an affront to the international community. Consequently, Trinidad and Tobago remains very concerned about the failure to justice persons accused of committing crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. We urge the Security Council to resolve these outstanding matters so that all persons are brought to justice.

Mr. Chairman

International law is norm setting and in many instances, lays the foundation upon which national law is built. It is a result of the inter-relationship between national law and international law. The United Nations is the primary

the Programme of Activities in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Widened Appreciation of International Law (the Programme). Through this initiative lawyers and other practitioners from developing and developed countries have benefitted from the hosting of workshops and seminars on several areas of international law which have to be implemented nationally. We lament however, that these programmes as well as the services provided by the Audiovisual Library of International Law administered by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, are in jeopardy because of inadequate financial resources to manage them. Over the years, Trinidad and Tobago and other States have made voluntary contributions for the maintenance of these programmes. These programmes were never intended, Mr. Chairman, to substitute the involuntary contributions of Member States, but also with funding from the regular budget of the UN.

We are therefore very concerned that despite the clear mandate contained in operative paragraph 7 of last year's resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee which requested that funding for the Programme be obtained from the regular budget, this mandate has not been implemented. If the Council of Economic and Social Affairs, especially from developing countries, in international law would be unilaterally undermined, this is an expectation that the year's resolution would also provide very clear and unambiguous message on the need for funding from the regular budget for the Programme and the Audiovisual Library of International Law, which has over many years assisted in the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

With regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes between and among States, Trinidad and Tobago is firm in its position that international disputes must be settled by peaceful means as enunciated in the United Nations Charter. In this regard, we recognize the important conditions set out over the years by the ICJ and tribunals such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in resolving disputes which arise in the relations among States.

Pursuant to Article 287 of the  
of the Caribbean Community  
disputes concerning the  
Treaty;

In the "Caribbean region" we  
Chaguaramas and  
to settle disputes which arise under that Treaty and  
CARICOM Single Market

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and  
commitment to implement fully its  
promote and defend the rule of law in its relations with all members of the  
international

Thank you.