



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

SPEAKING NOTES FOR

THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR, SC, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

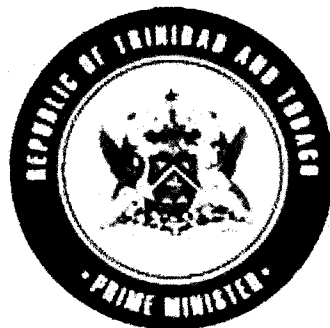
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT – PLENARY 2

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – NO.29

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8AM



INTRODUCTION

Mr. President, fellow leaders, distinguished participants, good morning.

I am delighted to bring greetings to you on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, and indeed to speak on their behalf at this **Climate Change Summit**. Mr President, I want to immediately lay down the context in which I speak with fellow leaders this morning: *The greatest environment threat of this century that mankind faces is the impact of climate change.*

I must immediately also lay down the context of its acceleration and its increasing danger to us all: *That, ironically, among the most culpable contributors to the quickening of climate change is mankind.*

It is within that double-edged context that we are here today, speaking with and listening to each other, sharing ideas on how we can remove ourselves as environmental liabilities, and all take responsibility for the world our people will live in tomorrow.

I say this because I believe we are now very clear that collective action is not only desirable; it is imperative.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

As a Small Island Developing State, Trinidad & Tobago fully appreciates its frontline position among countries that can be most negatively affected by Climate Change.

Already, our coastal and in-land regions are showing signs of the impact. And the ones facing the biggest risks of this impact are *the people* who depend on us for their safety and security.

We therefore support more determined collective action on climate change to achieve the pathway of keeping global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2020.

We equally support the very ambitious, but achievable goal of net-zero global emissions before the end of the century, between 2050 and 2100.

Such support is no longer mere decisions that we make by the policies we implement; rather, they are crucial to securing the safety and survival of our people, and the stability of economies like Trinidad & Tobago.

Mr. President, this summit would be delighted to know that Trinidad & Tobago's 2011 *National Climate Change Policy*, introduced a robust framework of cross-sectoral policy instruments, fiscal incentives and initiatives focused on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

We have reorganized national development policy to ensure that we do not go the route of vesting the interests of climate change action in one policy, but rather weave the imperatives through the entire national development policy.

And we have done so in spite of the relatively little contribution to the problem of climate change.

When the world and our people face such threats that collective action can defeat, it is *not* the time to think of *us and them*; it is the time to think of *us working together* for a common objective. Trinidad and Tobago stands ready to partner with all nations in collective global action against climate change.

THIS IS HOW WE ARE DOING IT

And Mr President, I would like to share just a few of the initiatives we have carefully activated to do our part.

The Industrial Sector

The Trinidad & Tobago people, as many of you will know, are a tremendously innovative and industrious people, now more connected to the global network than ever before.

In our output industrial sector, there has been greater access to substantial allowances and incentives to encourage energy efficiency in our petrochemical sector in particular.

A national Energy-Audits rollout has also been undertaken to encourage small businesses and households to implement energy efficient practices.

The Transport Sector

We also understand the great importance of leading by example, or as I put it, partnering with the people to enliven policy implementation.

An ongoing effort in the use of fuels is now making progress. We attempted to encourage road-car uses to switch from diesel and petrol to the cleaner and more efficient compressed natural gas (CNG).

In new sectors, we understand a common dilemma of whether you must first create the supply and then build demand, or vice versa.

So in Trinidad & Tobago, as part of a Cabinet approved *US\$300M Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Master Plan* we have pursued projects to expand and create efficient and low cost access to CNG.