

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## and the Paris Agreement



### Sectors

Power generation, Transport and industry (oil and gas, petrochemical and heavy industry)



### National Implementing Agency

Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD)



### Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted

October 21, 2015

### Paris Agreement signed

April 22, 2016

### Paris Agreement ratified

February 22, 2018

## Background

Trinidad and Tobago is a small island developing state (SIDS), considered as the most industrialized economy in the English-speaking Caribbean. Oil and gas is the leading economic sector and accounts for 40% of its GDP and 80% of its exports; yet, the island accounts for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Nevertheless, the island suffers the common SIDS vulnerabilities, as well as facing additional increased potential of experiencing tropical storms despite not being in the main Atlantic hurricane belt. The government of Trinidad and Tobago recognized its responsibilities as a fossil-fuel based economy and is committed to playing its part within the global efforts, by installing a policy framework for a low carbon development plan through the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), and developing a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) for the power generation, transportation and industrial sectors, all three of which are included in its INDC, which considers only mitigation objectives.



### About the INDC Project

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. In the run up to the historic Paris Agreement, the European Commission and others provided financial and technical support specifically to advance the preparation of countries' INDCs. This support, in the context of the larger global LECB Programme called the INDC Project, continued post-Paris and has enabled advances in implementation and country-driven action.



# ACTIONS & IMPACTS

## NDC Implementation Plan built through multiple policy formulation and assessment activities

The government of Trinidad and Tobago was supported by the INDC Project to formulate its INDC and draft the Implementation Plan, considering the inputs from previously designed policies and strategies (such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions - NAMAs, Carbon Development Action Plans, and the monitoring, reporting and verification - MRV plan), together with awareness and consultation processes and activities, ensuring overall alignment and avoiding duplication.

## MRV platform developed concurrently with procedures and a training program

The MRV system was created to support the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and low carbon plans for the sectors chosen, with the aim of tracking efforts to reduce GHG emissions and the resources devoted to this effort. The process included knowledge management by implementing a training program (following a guidance tool) for managers from relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral government offices who have the MRV mandate for mitigation challenges and opportunities in their areas of responsibility. Further, the required procedures, spreadsheets, hardware and software were taken into account. A pilot for the implementation of the MRV system is ready to be launched in 2019.



## Assessment of national policies and legislative framework enables ratification of Paris Agreement

Trinidad and Tobago worked on formulating and assessing its climate change framework after submitting the INDC to better understand the implications of its implementation on the economy. To do so, the government worked in translating the mitigation commitments into action plans, and integrating them into decision-making processes. This, together with government's political will, helped achieve ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2018.



## Improved coordination and capacity in public and private institutions

Capacities in both public and private organizations have been strengthened by increased awareness and knowledge about climate change, highlighting the work done around the NAMAs and MRV plan. The Institutional Capacity Assessment Report (supported by UNDP) included recommendations for legislation and policy in three priority sectors (power generation, transport and industry). This provided important input to guide the work among key stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD). Stakeholder outreach was improved with significant participation of private sector representatives in workshops and training sessions for the priority mitigation sectors. Several technical working groups were formed and met regularly, establishing a coordination dynamic that contributed to achieve country priorities.

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