

Opening Statement

Vashti G. Guyadeen

Chief Executive Officer, Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries

Esteemed delegates,

I am the CEO of the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI), and it is my privilege to discuss Trinidad and Tobago's approach to energy transition, a challenge of global significance. As we tackle the dual challenge of meeting energy demand and mitigating climate change, we've made substantial strides.

We committed to reduce CO2 emissions by 15% by 2030 under the Paris Agreement, and aimed to derive 10% of our energy from renewables by 2021. I am pleased to report our progress, including nearly 100% of electricity generated from cleaner natural gas. Yet, we realize that diversifying our energy portfolio with more renewable sources is key to sustainability.

Trinidad and Tobago is driving policy-making and service trade initiatives to bolster energy transition. We have created an environment that attracts both domestic and international investment in renewable energy projects, while establishing robust integration frameworks for renewable energy into our national grid.

We are committed to workforce development for the renewable sector, promoting local talent and strengthening academia-industry partnerships. International cooperation is critical to us, as we actively collaborate with global partners, exchanging best practices and innovative solutions for a sustainable energy future.

Our energy transition journey includes additional initiatives. For instance, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standard (TTBS) in 2021 established the National Mirror Committee which is contributing to the development of international standards for adoption at the national level. The Mirror Committee is part of a wider initiative that is in 2019, the National Quality Council was established, the Council has oversight for implementation of projects which will touch the lives of the citizens by ensuring the creation of an environment which promotes the production of high quality goods and services for local and consumption. Furthermore at the firm level, the TTCSI, encourage micro, small and medium sized businesses to integrate green practices into their business processes through our Gateway to Trade Export Accelerator Program. Additionally, our National Campaign Advisory Committee, backed by the Inter-

American Development Bank Innovation Laboratory (IDB-LAB), is addressing our waste management issues. This is a new project that is led by the Cropper Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago.

As you can observed, Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on a transformative journey. To innovate, collaborate, and set an example, demonstrating that economic progress and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive. Together, we can build a future that ensures a prosperous Trinidad and Tobago and contributes to a greener, resilient world.

Thank you.