

**Statement on the Observation of International Women's Day 2022 by
Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**



On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I am pleased to join the international community today in celebration of International Women's Day. This year's theme "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow" recognises the importance of gender equality in the context of climate change, which is a major challenge facing Trinidad and Tobago.

Gender equality is critical to sustainable national development, however we all recognise that there are still glass ceilings yet to be broken by women and girls, hence the importance placed on advocacy for the rights of girls and women in all sectors of society in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs contributes to the national conversation through representation and outreach globally. For example, Government has endorsed the re-election of Professor Rhoda Reddock to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, to which Trinidad and Tobago became a state party since 1985. The election will take place in June 2022 at the 22nd Meeting of States Parties in New York and Trinidad and Tobago, through its representatives, is working with like-minded countries for support for Professor Reddock's re-election. Representation by Trinidad and Tobago professionals in international bodies raise the profile of our beautiful country globally and contributes to inclusive solutions in the respective fora. In terms of outreach, our Embassy in Washington, D.C. holds an annual virtual International Women's Day Panel Discussion and Dialogue to highlight the gender issues of the day. The Fifth edition will be held today at 5:00 pm (EST)/ 6:00 pm (AST) in collaboration with the Women's Roundtable Action Platform (WRAP TT).

Climate change adaptation, mitigation and response is also critical to sustainable national development, and also transcends boundaries. While Government seeks resources and partnerships to address this issue, initiatives by civil society are welcome and necessary. Government needs local partnerships to ensure it reaches its citizens given that climate change affects us all. Women in particular are making significant strides in addressing climate change adaptation, mitigation and response and I congratulate and encourage the enterprising women in this field highlighted by our Gender Affairs Division, Office of the Prime Minister.

Rest assured, Trinidad and Tobago is committed to promoting gender equality and women's rights toward a sustainable future for all.

Happy International Women's Day.