

**Statement to be Delivered on the Occasion of His Majesty King Charles III's
Official Birthday Hosted by the British High Commission in Port of Spain**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening...

I am honoured to join you this evening in celebration of His Majesty King Charles III's official birthday. This evening's theme, "*Classic Garden Party*" is wrapped up in the timeless tradition of afternoon tea, which harks back to the historical role which the brew has long held within British culture and tradition.

Equally, here in Trinidad and Tobago and throughout the Caribbean, tea remains deeply woven into our customs and daily life, whether through cocoa tea, "bush" tea, or other cherished blends that continue to bring people together.

In many respects, tea also reflects the shared historical journey between the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. For generations, Caribbean sugar complemented British tea traditions, illustrating how our regions evolved through longstanding economic, cultural and people-to-people connections. Today, that relationship continues to mature through dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect.

Similarly, just as tea leaves are steeped over time to produce a richer and stronger blend, so too has the partnership between Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom deepened through sustained engagement and shared experiences over the years.

Mirroring this spirit of continuity and shared purpose, it is also noteworthy that this year marks the fiftieth (50th) anniversary of The King's Trust, formerly The Prince's Trust. Established by King Charles III, the organisation has for decades supported and empowered young people through education, skills training, entrepreneurship and community development initiatives, further reflecting His

Majesty's enduring commitment to opportunity, inclusion and breaking down barriers.

Building on this momentum, Trinidad and Tobago participated in both the Twelfth (12th) UK-Caribbean Forum and the Twenty-sixth (26th) Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) held in London earlier this year, which reaffirmed the value of close engagement between the Caribbean and the United Kingdom as we collectively navigate an increasingly interconnected and evolving international landscape.

Following those engagements, I also had the distinct honour of meeting His Majesty King Charles III. It was indeed a privilege to mark that occasion during a year of meaningful engagement between Trinidad and Tobago, the wider Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, and just last month, Trinidad and Tobago had the opportunity to participate in the Third (3rd) UK-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum, which highlighted several avenues for strengthened economic cooperation and deeper commercial partnerships between our countries and regions. Such engagements remains essential as we continue to pursue sustainable growth and mutually beneficial collaboration.

At the same time, our cooperation with the United Kingdom has extended into important international security discussions. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago participated in several meetings co-hosted by the United Kingdom and France concerning matters relating to international maritime security. These engagements reflected our shared understanding that global challenges require coordinated responses, sustained diplomacy and strong international partnerships.

As Trinidad and Tobago works to address shared security and migration concerns, our Government has also undertaken concrete legislative and institutional measures aimed at strengthening our border management systems and enhancing information sharing in accordance with international standards and best practices. In April 2026, Trinidad and Tobago introduced the Advance Passenger Information System, or APIS, legislation, which I piloted and was unanimously passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate. This important development represents another step toward strengthening national and regional security cooperation.

Following Trinidad and Tobago's successful election, last week, for a seat on the United Nations Security Council, I wish to indicate that this country stands ready to work constructively with all members of the UNSC, including the United Kingdom as a Permanent Member, to promote dialogue, strengthen cooperation and advance solution-oriented approaches to complex global challenges, such as, international peace, security and multilateral cooperation.

Your Excellency, as I conclude, I wish to express on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, our sincere and warm best wishes to His Majesty King Charles III on this joyous occasion.

Thank you.