



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HOSTS ARMS TRADE TREATY “TRAIN THE TRAINER” WORKSHOP

Port of Spain: Trinidad and Tobago has taken the lead in the hosting of the United Nation’s Arms Trade Treaty’s (UNATT) “Train the Trainer” Workshop, which is being held at the Radisson Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad, from 27 February to 03 March, 2023.

The aim of the workshop is to build the capacity of both local and regional ATT experts, so that implementation efforts of the Arms Trade Treaty, would be improved regionally.

On Monday February 27, 2023, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP, attended the opening ceremony of the UNATT Workshop, which is expected to train ten (10) selected regional participants, including representation from Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Bahamas and Jamaica.

In his opening remarks at the ceremony on Monday, Minister Hinds took the opportunity to welcome all international and regional participants and also thanked UNATT for choosing Trinidad and Tobago as the preferred location to host the event.

He said, *“There is indeed a focus by the ATT Secretariat to ensure knowledge transfer thereby ensuring a wider base - increasing the number of local and regional ATT trainers that will eventually ensure the full and effective operationalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty. This is imperative to help fight the scourge of illegal firearms and ultimately create a safer space for all our citizens and visitors within the region.”*

In speaking about the threat that small arms and ammunition pose to the Region and by extension Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister stated, *"Arms and ammunition continue to create unsafe spaces for our citizens. Although we are largely not a manufacturing region, the reality is that the Caribbean, which is a union of many Small Island Developing States, remain an extremely attractive transshipment point."*

The Minister reaffirmed Government's commitment to continue seeking and creating opportunities, through the Ministry of National Security and its dedicated members, to enhance global, regional and local dialogue in hopes that the scourge of firearm related serious crime is reduced to manageable levels.

The Minister stated, *"At the national level, we are making strides to ensure full compliance with not only the UNATT but also the UNLIREC Caribbean Firearms Roadmap and the UN's Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects."*

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons. It was entered into force on 24 December, 2014. 113 states have ratified the treaty, and a further 28 states have signed on to it.

The ATT is an attempt to regulate the international trade of conventional weapons for the purpose of contributing to international and regional peace; reducing human suffering; and promoting co-operation, transparency, and responsible action by and among states.

International weapons commerce has been estimated to reach US\$70 billion a year.

All participants of the workshop, are already involved in the fight against the flow of illegal arms and ammunition, and on the completion of the training, they will become part of a cadre of men and women who would make up an 'Expert Roster.' These experts would then have the responsibility of training their counterparts in law enforcement, thereby ensuring a sustained push towards the full implementation of the ATT throughout the Caribbean Region.

Also present at the opening workshop were, Mr. Dumisani Dladla, Head of the ATT Secretariat; Major Roger Best, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force; Mr. Dwayne Darryl Edghill, Strategic Security Services (SSA), Ministry of National Security; Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch, Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security and regional and local workshop participants from across the Caribbean Region.

Photo and Caption:



Caption: Minister of National Security The Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP; **(Seated Second from Right)**, with Officials for the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat; Officials from the Ministry of National Security and Regional and Local Participants at the opening ceremony of the UNATT Worksop, held at the Radisson Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad on Monday February 27, 2023.

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