



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY PARTICIPATES IN THE FOURTH CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE (CBSI) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON PREVENTING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS

Port of Spain: "It takes a network, to defeat a network." These were the words from Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., while delivering the Keynote Address during the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) Technical Working Group Meeting on Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Firearms.

The meeting was held over a three day period from April 25-27, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, with representatives from CARICOM Member States and the Dominican Republic, the CARICOM Secretariat and Diplomatic Missions, the United States Department of State, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Small Arms Survey, the Mines Advisory Group, various United Nations organizations and the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD).

The meeting aimed at encouraging further implementation of the Caribbean Priority Actions on Firearms; review of the status of new efforts, to assist CARICOM Member States and the Dominican Republic on illicit trafficking in firearms; renewal of regional firearms ballistics cooperation; the review of priorities for training and technical assistance; and the promotion of continued international partner coordination and cooperation.

During his remarks at the Opening Ceremony, Minister Hinds underscored the importance of a regional response to illicit firearms trafficking, together with hemispheric partners such as the Dominican Republic and the United States of America, whose expertise he said participants can draw upon.

Minister Hinds stated, "*The inclusion of sessions at this Technical Working Group Meeting that emphasize the need for standards, as it relates to physical security, stockpile management and the destruction of firearms and ammunition, is one of the many progressive steps that we must continue to take, as we journey towards a land*

Corporate Communications Unit, General Administration

Temple Court I, 31-33 Abercromby Street, Port of Spain

Ph. – 624-5771 | Fax – 625-3925 | Email - corpcomm@mns.gov.tt

and seascape that is less marred by the awful and sometimes fatalistic repercussions that illicit firearms trafficking has been known to produce."

The Minister reiterated the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's continued cooperation and collaboration in the fight against transnational organized crime and urged participants to maintain their rigour in facing the region's challenges.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Shante Moore; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan; Director of the Register for Arms Control and Firearms Possession, Mr. Sterling Pérez Maldonado; Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre, Mr. Derrick Sankar; and Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security, Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



Photo 1: Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., delivered the Keynote Address during the Opening Ceremony for the Fourth CBSI Technical Working Group Meeting on Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Firearms, at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad, on Tuesday 25 April, 2023.



Photo 2: Head Table: (From left to right) Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; Director of the Register for Arms Control and Firearms Possession, Mr. Sterling Pérez Maldonado; and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Shante Moore, at the Opening Ceremony for the Fourth CBSI Technical Working Group Meeting on Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Firearms, at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad, on Tuesday 25 April, 2023.



Photo 3: Group photograph of Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. and participants of the Fourth CBSI Technical Working Group Meeting on Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Firearms, at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad, on Tuesday 25 April, 2023.

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