



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

April 27, 2023

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY PARTICIPATES IN LAUNCH OF OPERATION CARISICA

Port of Spain: Enhancing regional resilience against Trafficking in Persons and Transnational Organized Crime was the focus, when officials attended a Pre-Operational Meeting for Operation CARISICA (OCASI) from April 24-26, 2023 at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, Port of Spain.

Operation CARISICA is the second phase of a broader project sponsored by the Joint Fund of CARICOM-Spain Scientific and Technical Cooperation, aimed at targeting Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism. Phase I of the Operation featured anti-human trafficking training for 159 law enforcement officials, prosecutors and other stakeholders from Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Central American Integration System (SICA) countries, in order to build capacity in the area of Counter-Trafficking in Persons.

Phase II, Operation CARISICA, coordinated through the Operation Centre at the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) in Barbados, presents an opportunity to apply the knowledge and training gained from Phase I, in an exercise targeting existing human trafficking networks. The Operation provides a live opportunity for officials from different jurisdictions and agencies, to learn how to work together, to share information and intelligence, and to collaborate on operations to dismantle trafficking networks.

The results and experiences of the Operation will then be used in Phase III of the project, which is the development of a Guidance Document to be used by Member States in addressing investigations relating to human trafficking.

Delivering the Keynote Address during the Opening Ceremony on Monday April 24, 2023, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., encouraged all participants in the Operation to fully commit to the initiative, as the quality of their participation would have direct implications for the quality of the guidance document that will be produced in Phase III.

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

Minister Hinds expressed, “We owe it to the citizens of our respective countries to give our full effort and support, in order to guarantee the success of this Exercise, in order to enhance regional resilience against Trafficking in Persons, and the impact of Transnational Organized Crime networks.”

Supported by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Operation CARISICA further provides an opportunity for countries to understand the value of participating in multinational efforts against Transnational Organized Crime, and sets a foundation for effective future collaboration against Trafficking in Persons.

Also present at the meeting were Ambassador Extraordinary, Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Fernando Nogales Alvarez; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Director of Democratic Security, SICA Secretariat, Mr. Hefer Morataya; Criminal Intelligence Officer, Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Unit, INTERPOL, Mr. Fernando Santos De Castro; 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 **Pre-Operational Meeting: Operation CARISICA (OCASI)**, at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, on Monday 24 April, 2023.



Photo 2: Head Table: (From left to right) Criminal Intelligence Officer, Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Unit, INTERPOL, Mr. Fernando Santos De Castro; Ambassador Extraordinary, Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Fernando Nogales Alvarez; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; Director of Democratic Security, SICA Secretariat, Mr. Hefer Morataya; and Chief of Operations, CARICOM IMPACS-RIFC, Dr. Andre Clarke at the **Pre-Operational Meeting: Operation CARISICA (OCASI)**, at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, on Monday 24 April, 2023.

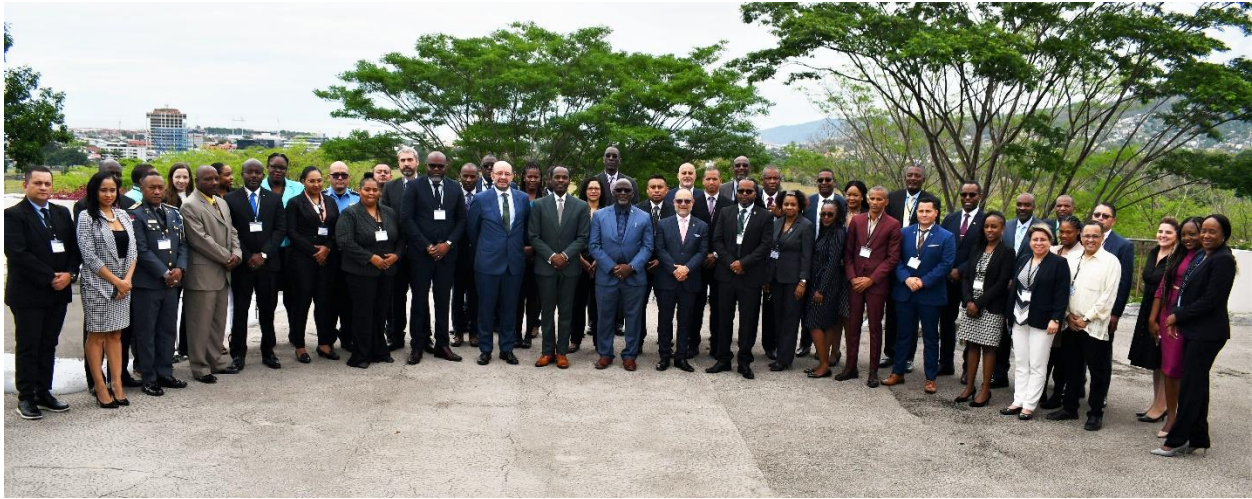


Photo 3: Group photograph of Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. and participants of the **Pre-Operational Meeting: Operation CARISICA (OCASI)**, at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, on Monday 24 April, 2023.

END