STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election to chair the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference and I assure you that you have my delegation’s full support and cooperation.

Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statement delivered by The Bahamas on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

We remain convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction will contribute significantly towards achieving international peace and security. Trinidad and Tobago holds firmly to the view that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitute a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations. Mutually assured destruction, which is inevitable with the use of nuclear weapons, cannot be a solution by which to settle disputes, when both combatants and several hundred millions beyond the theatre of war, will assuredly perish.

Mr. Chairman,

The prestige of a country should not be associated with its destructive capability, but rather, with its ability to build and maintain peace and to positively contribute to the development of humanity. Trinidad and Tobago therefore remains robust in its support for all efforts to achieve the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago welcomes with enthusiasm this Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We remain hopeful that tangible results are attained, in keeping with the stated commitment of States parties to the full and effective implementation of the decision and resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the Final Document of the 2000 Conference and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference, including the action plan. We look to the Review Conference in 2020 and urge those countries that are not yet parties to the Treaty to consider doing so.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago, as part of CARICOM, participated in United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination. As a Small Island Developing State, we remain cognizant of the extreme risks posed by any use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons.

We are of the view that the Treaty banning nuclear weapons would not only complement current norms and reinforce existing legal instruments, including the NPT, but it would also close loopholes in the current legal regime that enable States to participate in activities associated with nuclear weapons or to claim a perceived benefit from their existence. Trinidad and Tobago worked with like-minded States on the Articles on ‘Positive Obligations’ in the Treaty since we situated our support for a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation acknowledges and commends the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which continues to play an indispensable role in
support of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In closing, my delegation also wishes to highlight the important role played by civil society and academia in the advancement of the goal of inter alia, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and in this regard, we look forward to our continued partnership.

I thank you.