



Trinidad and Tobago's Perspective Re:

Regional Energy Policy Dialogue

**"The New Sustainable Development Objectives"
(Agenda 2030)**

Presented by

**The Honourable Nicole Olivierre
Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

At

Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL)

Los Parrales Hotel, La Bodega Room,

Tarija, Bolivia

29th October 2015

Dear Ministers and Representatives of the OLADE countries, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Chairman,

Over the past two centuries, we have witnessed the significant growth in the consumption of energy as countries seek to grow their economies and increase levels of prosperity. It is well known that mankind can no longer sustain these levels of consumption, particularly that of fossil fuels, for in so doing we are threatening our very own future existence and all life here on Earth.

Let me state that each of us whether from a large or small country must play a part in protecting this planet that we all call home, while at the same time ensuring the availability of all forms of energy that would sustain development and the livelihood of all our citizens.

As a small mature energy producer and a member of this important and prestigious organization, Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the development and implementation of energy policies that promote sustainable development in its oil economy. We support the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative that is focused on mobilizing action from all sectors of society in fulfilling its three interlinked objectives that include:

1. Providing universal access to modern energy services;
2. Doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and
3. Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Energy Access

Access to energy is not a challenge in Trinidad and Tobago. Our production of crude oil averages around 81,000 barrels of oil per day with gas production at 4.1 trillion cubic feet per day. Approximately 8% of the natural gas produced is used for electricity generation. The country has installed capacity of 2.3 GW which is sufficient to provide electricity for some 98% of the population.

As part of our sustainable development agenda Trinidad and Tobago is placing focus on **improving Energy Efficiency (EE), promoting Energy Conservation and the incorporation of Renewable Energy (RE) into the local energy mix.**

In demonstration of our commitment to sustainable development objectives, Trinidad and Tobago became a full member of **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** in February 2014.

We have developed an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) which is intended to support our position at the climate change dialogue scheduled to take place in Paris next month.

With the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank we have successfully completed a report for the development of a Sustainable Energy Programme.

Energy Efficiency

Given the finite nature of our hydrocarbon resources, we are actively pursuing energy efficiency and energy conservation strategies. This is intended to extend the life of the country's hydrocarbon resources and reduce our carbon footprint. Our focus at this time is on the country's natural gas based industrial sector.

As is well known, Trinidad and Tobago has several world scale petrochemical plants, an LNG industry, and Iron and Steel industry. Many of these facilities are quite aged and as a result there is much scope for improving EE. In this regard, we conducted an EE study of the power generation and petrochemical sectors which revealed that a 15% reduction in total energy use can be attained by incorporating technically feasible energy efficiency techniques and best practices.

Through an IDB programme the government conducted energy audits in 8 government buildings, with the recommendations issued to the building managers for implementation.

In an effort to encourage more companies to adopt energy Efficiency, the government introduced a tax allowance of 150% of the cost spent to conduct an energy audit.

In the area of **Renewable Energy**, the practical use of solar and wind energy within the domestic and commercial sectors is being promoted. The government has set a target that by the year 2030, 10% of our electricity generation will come from renewable sources.

To support this target we have embarked on a series of initiatives and pilot projects which are designed to build awareness and build capacity.

One such initiative is a Pilot RE and EE in Secondary Schools Project

This project introduced practical usage of RE and EE technologies in secondary schools targeting 14-16 year old students. It included a training programme where 85 teachers were trained on RE and EE. Additionally, off-grid solar PV systems and solar distillation units were installed in 21 schools. The project promotes a more effective learning environment for students and affords them the opportunity to interact with the technologies.

Another project included the Pilot RE and EE in Community Centers

This involved the installation of solar induction lighting around the exterior of community centers and their associated parking lots. Installation has taken place in thirteen (13) centers throughout the country. We have found these centers to be ideal venues for demonstrating the practical use and benefits of RE and EE to the national community while facilitating the growth of a knowledge base.

We have also procured a **Solar House** as a practical demonstration site. The house is located at the campus of the University of Trinidad and Tobago and is used for both teaching and public display purposes.

Several other ideas are also under consideration

- 1. A Wind Resource Assessment Programme (WRAP)** is currently being proposed to evaluate the feasibility of introduction of a wind farm. This study would ascertain the optimal location for a pilot wind project.
- 2. We are currently exploring the feasibility of establishing a local solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing facility.**

3. Recognising that solid waste management is becoming a challenge in our small island nation, we are currently examining the feasibility of a **Waste to Energy (WtE)** plant in Trinidad and Tobago. This has gained the interest of the Organization of American States who has indicated an interest to provide technical assistance in this venture.

To support these initiatives, we recognize the need for the appropriate fiscal, legal and regulatory framework to facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources into the national grid system.

As a first step we have developed a Feed-In Tariff (FIT) policy which provides the appropriate guidelines for establishing a tariff. We are also reviewing the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) Act and the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) Act with a view to making the requisite amendments to allow for incorporation of renewable energy.

The government has also been receiving technical assistance from the Organization of American States (OAS) under the Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI) by the Department of Sustainable Development. Currently, the OAS is assisting with the design of a toolkit for the development of renewable energy power purchase agreements and contracts.

In support of the regulatory framework, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) has developed product and technical standards related to RE technologies.

- Design and Installation Standards for Solar Water Heaters (SWHs) have been published and an advisory for solar collectors were published.
- The National wiring code now includes a Part III for RE.

Fiscal Incentives for RE have also been introduced.

The major ones include VAT exemptions and a tax credit with respect to the acquisition of solar water heaters (SWHs) and conditional import duty exemption for SWH assemblers; VAT exemption for solar PV and wind turbines based on specific tariff headings. A Wear and Tear Allowance was also instituted for acquisition of wind turbines, SWHs and solar PV systems.

On a Caribbean regional scope, Trinidad and Tobago joins with **CARICOM** during the second week of November of each year, to celebrate CARICOM Energy Week. CARICOM Energy Week (CEW) is intended to provide a regional platform for increased awareness about energy matters, given the critical importance of energy to economic development.

In Summary, we have made some advancements in incorporating solar energy and in building awareness of RE and EE in schools and communities. Our efforts in Wind and Waste to Energy are still at the very early stages of development. We are progressing with our fiscal, legislative and regulatory framework to support the introduction of RE and EE and we are well on our way to meeting our target of 10% RE by 2030. We have worked closely with IDB on many of these projects and look forward to their continued support, particularly in capacity development for example the Feed-In-Tariff.

As a small island nation, we are taking tangible steps towards ensuring sustainable development and the use of renewable energy. We therefore strongly urge our fellow OLADE members to do the same.

Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
Trinidad and Tobago
29th October 2015.