STATEMENT

by

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To the United Nations
on
Draft Resolution
A/C.1/65/L.39
"Women, Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation"

In the First Committee
Of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

United Nations Headquarters
October 20, 2010
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to present for the consideration of the First Committee document A/C.1/65/L.39; the draft resolution on “Women, Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation”.

Our intention to launch this initiative was announced just about a month ago, during the General Debate of the General Assembly of the present Session by the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. At that time, the Honourable Prime Minister spoke of the important contribution of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325, which acknowledged that there can be no sustainable peace and security without the contribution of women. The Honourable Prime Minister also spoke of Trinidad and Tobago’s dual commitment to the advancement of the United Nations peace and security agenda and the promotion of women. It is this dual commitment, and the well-matched union of these two principles, that has produced the draft resolution we present to you today.

Mr. Chairman,

By introducing this resolution to the First Committee, Trinidad and Tobago seeks to build on the foundation laid by SCR 1325 through broadening the understanding of women’s roles in the attainment of sustainable peace and recognizing the value of their contributions in this important field. It is our view, that after sixty-four (64) sessions of the General Assembly, the acknowledgement that all actions undertaken to promote disarmament would benefit from the participation of men and women is not only warranted, but is long overdue. We believe that discussions in the First Committee would stand to benefit from the adoption of this more inclusive approach. In the light of the United Nations’ renewed focus on gender mainstreaming in all of its substantive work, this initiative could not be more timely or appropriate. It follows therefore, that document L.39, although related to some aspects of SCR 1325, must be distinguished from that resolution. Our intention is not to misappropriate, duplicate or replace SCR 1325 but to develop a particular aspect of it, in the manner and for the reasons outlined previously.

Mr. Chairman,
It is Trinidad and Tobago’s desire that a resolution of this nature should receive the support of all delegations because of its special emphasis. In this regard, and in an effort to bring on board a wide cross-section of views and opinions, the delegation has so far convened two rounds of informal consultations, as well as numerous bilateral meetings, which took place before and after the submission of the draft to the Secretariat. L. 39 is a product of these consultations.

We wish to emphasize that L.39 as compared to the original draft which was circulated is a compromise text. It is a demonstration of our openness, understanding and flexibility as we strive to achieve a consensus adoption of this draft resolution. Notwithstanding the modesty of the current draft before you, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to be open to further suggestions aimed at improving the text in order to achieve what we consider to be a noble objective.

Mr. Chairman,
In closing, we wish to thank delegations which have either supported the text or co-sponsored it. We look forward to the support of all delegations for document L.39.

I thank you.