



Promoting and strengthening  
the Universal Periodic Review

## Recommendations & Pledges

### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

#### First Review Session 12

Review in the Working Group: 5 October 2011  
Adoption in the Plenary: 15 March 2012

#### Trinidad and Tobago's responses to recommendations (as of 07.06.2012):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
48 recs. accepted (among which 33 were considered as already implemented or in the process of implementation); 18 rejected; 52 pending	The delegation commented most of the 52 pending recs. without giving a clear response	Following a question by the United States, the delegation stated that the 52 recs pending from the Working Group stage were noted.	Accepted: 48 Rejected: 18 No clear position: 0 Pending: 52

*Paragraph headers are as in the Report of the Working Group, but the nature of responses to recommendations may have subsequently been changed.*

#### List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/19/7:

**86. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago:**

A - 86.1. Continue promoting the process of penal reform, taking into account the international obligations that the State has undertaken in the field of human rights (Nicaragua);

A - 86.2. Continue promoting equality, participation and empowerment of women in public policy-making and decision-taking (Nicaragua);

A - 86.3. Reinforce women's rights within the labour market (Brazil);

A - 86.4. Maintain its efforts in favour of prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women (Argentina);

A - 86.5. Strengthen legislation and policy measures aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women (Brazil);

A - 86.6. Investigate allegations of possible human rights violations by public security officials and reinforce the capacity to sanction those responsible and avoid impunity (Mexico);

A - 86.7. In line with an earlier recommendation made by the Human Rights Committee, exercise the full authority of the law and all means at its command, while ensuring respect for human rights, to eradicate the scourge of violence (Ghana);

A - 86.8. While carrying out measures to combat violence, ensure full respect for human dignity and the protection of human rights (Hungary);

A - 86.9. Work to reduce the case backlog and address the inefficiencies in the judicial system that contribute to lengthy pretrial detentions and exacerbate difficult prison conditions (United States);

A - 86.10. Undertake proactive policies to promote the rights of individuals, especially with regard to their sexual orientation and HIV/AIDS status (Canada);

A - 86.11. Continue applying the country's strategies and socioeconomic development plans in order to advance towards the materialization of the Millennium Development Goals, (Cuba);

A - 86.12. Further efforts aimed at combating extreme poverty (Brazil);

A - 86.13. Consider technical assistance in the provision of education infrastructure and in ICT development (Sri Lanka);

A - 86.14. Continue with its efforts to promote and protect human rights (Sri Lanka);

A - 86.15. Continue to build on its laudable achievements in promoting and protecting the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the good people of Trinidad and Tobago (Nigeria).

**87. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation.**

A - 87.1. Harmonize its national legislation with CEDAW, in particular regarding the explicit prohibition of discrimination against women and carry out an inventory to ensure that the national legislative framework does not allow for direct or indirect discrimination (Mexico);

A - 87.2. Undertake every effort to fully implement the Children's Authority Act (Hungary);

A - 87.3. Continue its significant efforts to promote gender equality, in particular the implementation of the "Draft National Gender Policy" (Chile);

A - 87.4. Fulfil its international reporting obligations (Slovenia);

A - 87.5. Adopt measures so that traditional stereotypes referring to the roles of men and women in society and family can be overcome (Uruguay);

A - 87.6. Intensify efforts to combat practices and beliefs that undermine human rights, including the rights of women and children (Indonesia);

A - 87.7. Take prompt, appropriate, efficient measures towards the improvement of the living conditions in prisons and detention centres, including the inmates' access to food, medical care and social services (Slovakia);

A - 87.8. Continue to strengthen legislation aimed at the elimination of gender based violence, including through public awareness campaigns (South Africa);

A - 87.9. Strengthen efforts to effectively implement the legislation in force on the subject of gender violence in order to reduce the current percentages of mistreated women. Put in place awareness raising campaigns to combat rejection in society and increase protection for victims (Spain);

A - 87.10. Police be trained to provide improved investigation and prosecution services to women subjected to violence including rape, and that resources be made available to improve access to shelters (New Zealand);

A - 87.11. Undertake more effective measures to address the problems of sexual abuse and violence against women and girls, including through strengthening of law enforcement and the judicial system and intensive media and education programmes aimed at increasing public awareness and sensitivity on the rights of women and girls (Malaysia);

A - 87.12. Place high priority on measures aimed at combating violence against women in the family and in society, increase the population's awareness about violence against women as well as strengthen support programs aimed at the elimination of sexual violence and incest, and prostitution as a form of exploitation (Uruguay);

A - 87.13. Address, as a matter of urgency, the reportedly widespread violence against women, including a pursue of appropriate public awareness raising campaigns against the traditional negative social attitudes and stereotypes (Slovakia);

A - 87.14. Raise public awareness to counter deeply rooted traditional patriarchal attitudes which lead to violence against women, as recommended by CEDAW (Israel);

A - 87.15. Enact draft human trafficking legislation to improve prosecution of trafficking offenders and protections for victims of forced labour and sex trafficking. (United States);

A - 87.16. Introduce further measures to raise public awareness about violence against women and children, and strengthen its activities and programs to focus on sexual violence and human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Canada); 1

A - 87.17. Continue to develop and implement measures aimed at protecting the rights of all children, particularly those in vulnerable situations (Singapore);

A - 87.18. Step up measures to curb the incidence of drug and alcohol abuse by children including through intensive public education awareness campaigns (Malaysia);

A - 87.19. Take the necessary steps to ensure police and security forces operate with greater respect for human rights, such as including comprehensive human rights and rule-of-law components in training for security forces (United States);

A - 87.20. Establish a modern Juvenile Justice System to consolidate the protection of the rights of children (Maldives);

A - 87.21. Ensure that life imprisonment sentences cease to be administered to minors and juveniles (Slovakia);

A - 87.22. Provide for a separation of juvenile offenders from adult inmates (Slovakia);

A - 87.23. Increase measures to ensure that violence and discrimination against members of vulnerable groups, such as women and lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, are both prevented and prosecuted (United States);

A - 87.24. Intensify programs to combat crime and extreme poverty (Algeria);

A - 87.25. Further action to reduce maternal mortality (Sri Lanka);

A - 87.26. Continue and strengthen current efforts to increase the accessibility and quality of health services and education for all its citizens (Cuba);

A - 87.27. Allocate adequate resources to strengthen services for children with disabilities, support their families, train professionals in the field and encourage the inclusion of children with disabilities into the regular educational system and their integration into society (Israel);

A - 87.28. Adopt and implement the Draft National Community Care Policy to ensure health and social support serves to older persons in the community (Israel);

A - 87.29. Continue action in order to ensure the full exercise of human rights by the senior citizens of the country (Romania);

A - 87.30. Finalize reforms of the educational system, notably by establishing mandatory schooling for children between 6 and 15 years of age (Algeria);

A - 87.31. Continue to implement its policies and programmes aimed at promoting universal education and developing a knowledge-based society for long-term sustainable development (Singapore);

A - 87.32. Include Human Rights education and training among its educational programmes, in accordance with the guidelines of the United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education and Training, both in the first and second stages (Costa Rica);

A - 87.33. Endeavour to sustain the maximum humane care for "illegal immigrants" and assist them to utilize, on a timely basis, the prevailing legal system in the country to address their situation (Ghana).

**88. The following recommendations will be examined by Trinidad and Tobago which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 19th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2012:**

P - 88.1. Ratify and fully implement, step by step, all core universal human rights treaties (Slovenia);

P - 88.2. Consider acceding to CAT, OP-CAT, CRPD, and OP-CEDAW (Brazil);

P - 88.3. Consider the possibility of ratifying CAT, CED, and ICRMW (Argentina);

P - 88.4. Envisage acceding to the Convention against Torture (Morocco);

P - 88.5. Consider acceding to the Convention against Torture (Nigeria);

P - 88.6. Analyse the possibility of subscribing to CAT (Ecuador);

P - 88.7. Ratify CED, CAT and OP-CAT, CRPD and OP-CRPD, as well as the two optional protocols to CRC (Uruguay);

P - 88.8. Sign and ratify CAT, CED and ratify CRPD (Spain);

P - 88.9. Continue to expand the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, including through the ratification of CAT, CRPD, and CED (Indonesia);

P - 88.10. Strengthen its judicial arsenal by adhering to international human rights conventions to which it is not yet a party, in particular CAT, CED and OP1-ICCPR (France);

P - 88.11. Become party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);

P - 88.12. View positively the reconsideration of the denunciation of the Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Ecuador);

P - 88.13. Become a party to and implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);

- P - 88.14. Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Costa Rica);
- P - 88.15. Act on its commitment to end impunity in matters of ill treatment and torture by acceding to the UN Convention against Torture (Hungary);
- P - 88.16. Become party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as its Optional Protocol (New Zealand);
- P - 88.17. Accede to the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol and set up a National Preventive Mechanism accordingly (Maldives);
- P - 88.18. Ratify the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment (United Kingdom);
- P - 88.19. Ratify the optional protocols to CRC, as requested by CRC, ICRMW and CAT (Guatemala);
- P - 88.20. Accede to the two Optional Protocols under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Maldives);
- P - 88.21. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed in 2007 (Morocco);
- P - 88.22. Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);
- P - 88.23. Comply with CEDAW's suggestion to incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its national legislation, in particular article 1 which defines discrimination against women (Guatemala);
- P - 88.24. Amend national legislation to ensure the minimum age for marriage is in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Israel);
- P - 88.25. Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (South Africa);
- P - 88.26. Consider the possibility of establishing a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Argentina);
- P - 88.27. Put in place a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with international standards in force (Algeria);
- P - 88.28. Fully explore the possibility of establishing an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- P - 88.29. Act on its commitment to enhance the promotion and protection of Human Rights by establishing a National Human Rights Body in conformity with the Paris Principles, as well as by ratifying and implementing outstanding core international human rights treaties (Hungary);
- P - 88.30. Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution which conforms to the Paris Principles, either by strengthening the existing Ombudsman's Office or through the creation of a new body (Indonesia);
- P - 88.31. Strengthen the Police Complaints Authority's capacity (Hungary);
- P - 88.32. Ensure the adoption and coordinated implementation of the National Policy on Gender and Development (Canada);
- P - 88.33. Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures (Spain);
- P - 88.34. Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Uruguay);

P - 88.35. Seek technical expertise from the Special Procedure mechanism by issuing a standing invitation to all Rapporteurs (Maldives);

P - 88.36. Consider positively the request for visit by Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and eventually extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);

P - 88.37. Legislation be introduced to ensure that the age of marriage is the same for males as for females (New Zealand);

P - 88.38. Take steps to address the 19.7 per cent gender pay gap (Ghana);

P - 88.39. Prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings and enact legislation to achieve this (Slovenia);

P - 88.40. Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in any context (including in the home) (Uruguay);

P - 88.41. Adopt a legal definition of the crime of corporal punishment of children in all circumstances and places (Uruguay);

P - 88.42. As a matter of priority, review its criminal law provisions and enact legislation prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings (Hungary);

P - 88.43. Adopt legislation to prohibit corporal punishment in public and private schools (Costa Rica);

P - 88.44. Forbid the corporal punishment of children through the abolition of the laws that permit its use in the home, schools and detention centres for minors (Spain);

P - 88.45. Take all necessary measures to fight efficiently against impunity, notably by providing the necessary means to the organ charged with systematically investigating all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and by clarifying its status (France);

P - 88.46. Ensure better control of the State's Security Forces, especially by promoting independent investigations into the cases of human rights violations in which they have been implicated (Spain);

P - 88.47. Continue implementing measures to bring police officers responsible for abuses to justice, such as the amendment to the Police Complaints Authority Act, enabling investigation on criminal offences involving police officers, like corruption and serious misconduct (Canada);

P - 88.48. Repeal as soon as possible the provisions in the Penal Code and particularly articles 13 and 16 of the law on sexual offences of 1986, penalizing sexual relations between consenting individuals of the same sex (France);

P - 88.49. Repeal all provisions of domestic law that criminalise same sex relations between consenting adults including the Sexual Offences Act (New Zealand);

P - 88.50. Repeal all provisions that criminalize consensual same sex relationships between adults or discriminate against homosexuals (Germany);

P - 88.51. Regarding the situation of LGBT community, adopt legislative and political measures to establish a specific framework of protection from discrimination for sexual preference. Additionally, put in place public awareness raising campaigns on the matter (Spain);

P - 88.52. Strengthen the protection safeguards, in particular the control mechanisms that allow the detection of cases of migrants with special needs for international protection (Chile).

**89. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago:**

R - 89.1. Consider re-acceding to the American Convention on Human Rights (Mexico);

- R - 89.2. Consider positively the acceptance of the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Mexico);
- R - 89.3. Repeal the death penalty (Canada);
- R - 89.4. Abolish the death penalty (Brazil);
- R - 89.5. Abolish the death penalty definitively in accordance with the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Uruguay);
- R - 89.6. Abolish the death penalty and to consider ratifying the second Optional Protocol to ICCPR. (Romania);
- R - 89.7. Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and take all necessary steps to remove the death penalty from Trinidad and Tobago law (Australia);
- R - 89.8. Formally establish a moratorium on use of the death penalty with a view to abolition (United Kingdom);
- R - 89.9. Declare, as soon as possible, a moratorium on executions, with a view to definitively abolishing the death penalty (France);
- R - 89.10. Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Turkey);
- R - 89.11. Re-impose an immediate formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view of a complete abolition of the capital punishment (Slovakia);
- R - 89.12. Continue promoting a dialogue that could lead to the abolition or establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty (Chile);
- R - 89.13. Maintain the moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty as a step towards its definitive abolition (Spain);
- R - 89.14. As a first step, consider establishing an official moratorium and supporting the next resolution of the General Assembly on a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it in the future (Germany);
- R - 89.15. Commute all death sentences to prison sentences (France):
- R - 89.16. Whilst the death penalty remains in place, adopt a 3 tiered classification of murder that would abolish mandatory imposition of the death penalty and hand decision making power to the presiding judge. (United Kingdom);
- R - 89.17. Set up an independent inquiry into the justification for calling a State of Emergency which would inter alia investigate the actions of the security services during the State of Emergency (United Kingdom);
- R - 89.18. Investigate thoroughly complaints from citizens about excessive use of force and other serious alleged abuse by the police and make public the findings of these investigations (Australia).

#### Notes

1 The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Introduce further measures to raise public awareness about violence against women and children, and strengthen its activities and programs to focus on sexual violence and prostitution (Canada);

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