



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Stakeholder Consultation on the Draft CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code (CREEBC)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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FEATURE ADDRESS

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INTRODUCTION

I am particularly pleased to be here to address you this morning at this important Stakeholder Consultation aimed at soliciting feedback and building consensus on the technical details associated with the Draft CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code. As the line Ministry for the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), we are particularly delighted to join you on this occasion in order to lend support to the important work being done to aid with national and regional development. We at the Ministry commend the TTBS for spearheading and co-ordinating the national inputs for the regional code development process.

This initiative is timely given international trends which, according to the International Energy Agency, indicate that, 'Buildings' are the largest consumers of energy worldwide. Notably, buildings account for over one-third of the world's total energy usage and its associated Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Further, the International Energy Agency has reported that globally, energy consumption doubled between 1971 and 2010, driven primarily by population increases and economic growth. The number of buildings will continue to increase, adding further pressure on energy supplies around the world. The global energy demand of buildings is projected to grow by an additional thirty percent (30%) by 2035.

In light of this, many countries have embraced green buildings as a strategy to control increasing energy demand. The global green building movement has a multitude of drivers, not the least of which is improved energy performance through energy efficient design strategies. Green buildings also have broad appeal for their integration of passive and technical solutions to achieve comfortable and healthy indoor environments.

As such, we are committed to any initiative that would improve energy efficiency and security nationally and regionally. As a Member of CARICOM, Trinidad and Tobago supports the CARICOM Energy Strategy recommendation of a significant reduction in energy intensity to be applied in all CARICOM Member States by 2027. Through the formulation of this Regional Code, emphasis will be placed on energy efficiency practices which will mitigate against increases in the atmospheric temperatures and climate changes over the coming years. At this stage in our development, it is imperative that we strive to institutionalize measures which will create a sustainable path for our future generations.

GORTT ROLE IN IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Goal two (2) of our national development roadmap, Vision 2030 speaks to reducing our carbon footprint; which involves the development and use of Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy (RE) technologies in Trinidad and Tobago. The CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code (CREEBC) implementation supports Government's efforts to reduce our energy and carbon footprint.

Further, there are other policy measures some of which we've heard this morning will also enhance cost effectiveness of public and private operations by reducing energy usage, wastage and consumables, while contributing to environmentally safe practices, akin to the concept of green buildings.

Locally, limited awareness of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy technologies, along with insufficient capital for implementation are the main barriers affecting the promotion of more efficient

energy use among consumers, Government and businesses.

Our companies, our state agencies and the Government can also contribute significantly to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy development in Trinidad and Tobago by:

- Application of this CARICOM Energy Efficiency Building Code in the construction of new energy efficient buildings and retrofitting of existing buildings.
- Manufacturing and procuring more sustainable building materials.
- Using more energy efficient lighting and electrical appliances.

IMPACT OF CREEBC ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Ladies and gentlemen, the CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code (CREEBC) will also create opportunities for trade. As new buildings are constructed and the economy grows, building codes and testing procedures will not only ensure energy-efficient construction, but they also will provide opportunities for T&T companies to export internationally certified materials to the Region.

LINKAGES TO THE NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY

This effort here today also dovetails nicely into current work being undertaken by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in partnership with the TTBS. You may be aware that the Ministry of Trade and Industry has engaged the Caribbean Development Bank and accessed over \$250,000 US dollars in funding from the tenth EDF for the development of a National Quality Policy.

To date consultations and validation exercises to create the National Quality Policy have been conducted; the draft Policy has been reviewed by all stakeholders, and their feedback consolidated into the final draft Policy document which is engaging the attention of technocrats at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It is my intention to finalise the National Quality Policy in the shortest possible timeframe and have the policy submitted to Cabinet for approval in another month.

The TTBS is championing the policy's development which is intended to create the environment for strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure or NQI as it is more popularly known. The National Quality Infrastructure is the institutional framework necessary for building our country's capacity and national systems in the disciplines of standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment activities; this framework helps to ensure that our products, our processes and our services are fit for purpose and meet internationally accepted best practices.

The National Quality Policy and the NQI (known together as the National Quality System) also address the legal, regulatory, and institutional structure needed to support key Government priorities such as energy security and sustainable development including health, safety and environmental protection. Thus, in addition to supporting trade and economic diversification, a fully developed and internationally recognized NQI will also support the development and enforcement of appropriate Codes and Standards for building construction and other physical infrastructure development.

The Government is committed to finalizing the National Quality Policy. The implementation of this Policy will contribute to the general strengthening of various state agencies, deepening the collaboration and co-ordination with private sector conformity assessment bodies and the reform of the regulatory framework in keeping with the long term vision for Quality in Trinidad and Tobago.

THE ROLE OF TTBS IN SUPPORT OF MTI'S MANDATE

The TTBS continues to be one of our key national institutions in the area of standards setting and has already made significant contributions through the development of the Small Building Guide, the Electrical Wiring Code and the National Accessibility Code. I look forward to TTBS' finalization and subsequent adoption of this CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code (CREEBC) locally.

A critical decision will, however, have to be taken by stakeholders on mandatory measures for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and specifically with regard to the energy performance of state buildings. Effective implementation of this Code will require the application of Good Regulatory Practices to ensure a sound regulatory framework supported by the relevant Standards and Codes for protection of the society and sustainable development.

Additionally, inter-Ministerial collaboration with key Ministries including the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, will be required for the proper enforcement and application. All our ministries must do our part in this.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I take this opportunity to wish you every success at today's Consultation. The technical sessions are extremely important as they solicit your direct feedback on this draft regional code. Your active participation will ensure that our national position is well-represented at the regional level and the final regional code is suitable for adoption nationally subject to Cabinet approval. Moreover, as we think beyond this stage I challenge you to consider the implementation options for this Code. This is extremely critical for active implementation of key Energy Efficiency measures and requirements to ensure a more sustainable outlook for our future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen - I thank you!