



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

Media Release

TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER SPEAKS AT CPA-WTO PARLIAMENTARIAN WORKSHOP

November 25, 2016:- *“2016 has been a remarkable year for the casual observer; but for parliamentarians involved in multilateralism and representative politics, it has been a reminder of how dynamic the world is and how we must constantly be aware of the needs and desires of the people we serve,”* were the opening words of Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry to the Parliamentarians present at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) - World Trade Organisation (WTO), Parliamentarian Workshop on Tuesday 22 November, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Re-affirming Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the multilateral system and to the WTO, Senator Gopee-Scoon said *“the WTO remains Trinidad and Tobago's, and if I may dare say, the Region's, best chance to leverage its small size in the international trading community. The multilateral process, and in particular the Doha Development Round, is an important part of our wider national development strategy”*. Doha is the only negotiating Round that has placed the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the WTO's Work Programme. Doha's goal of providing meaningful access for developing countries' exports to developed markets in a fair and balanced way aligns with Trinidad and Tobago's strategies for sustainable economic growth and diversification. The Minister stated that *“despite the premature conclusion of Doha, Trinidad and Tobago nevertheless remains firm in its conviction and support of the Doha Round and the multilateral process”*.

In closing the Trade and Industry Minister gave a challenge to the CARICOM members, the wider Caribbean and all developing countries to have honest, open and frank discussions of the issues and respond to the new economic realities and challenges currently being faced.



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