



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

*Closing Remarks
X Meeting of the
Red VUCE*

REMARKS
MR NORRIS HERBERT, PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NOVEMBER 14, 2018

We have reached the end of the X Meeting of the Inter-American Network of Single Windows and on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, it has been a pleasure and privilege to host this auspicious and ground breaking event. We have all appreciated the engagement and candour that have contributed to two days of lively and stimulating discourse. As with all such events — and this one has been an outstanding example — our minds have been assailed by a torrent of ideas, information, statistics, interpretations and visions, and it will probably be a day or two before we can sift through them all to consolidate our own personal perspectives. There is, indeed, much to reflect upon and, if this in any way enhances our individual and collective contributions to meeting the challenges of single windows and international trade, then the event can truly be adjudged a success.

Over the past two days, we looked at various aspects of Single Windows both for the simplification and optimization of trade documentation requirements as well as for port and logistics procedures. Yesterday, we explored the possible future of single windows in terms of new technologies and its applications; monitoring systems and the power of data analytics and how Single Window data can be leveraged for decision-making; and we also got a first-hand look at some of the trade single windows and port community systems in the region.

Today, we focused on specific issues and looked at private sector perspectives. We also heard presentations on the global perspective in terms of smart ports and some regional initiatives being undertaken. The masterclasses on Risk Management and Port Community Systems were a unique addition to the agenda for this event and provided a fresh, interactive spin on the delivery of these topics.

Finally, although we formally close the event with these remarks, we have the opportunity to break-out into further sub-regions to discuss pertinent issues such as interoperability over the next hour.

I do feel after listening to the presentations and discussions over the past two days that another of the important messages to come out of this event – and from all sides – is the general awareness that only through concerted cooperation and regular interaction can we hope to improve our understanding of the main issues involved and establish the confidence required to forge a lasting and effective interrelationship among all the main parties.

And it is on this note that I would like to thank everyone involved in the production of this event and those who participated. Specifically, I would like to thank the IDB for jointly hosting this event with us; all the speakers and presenters who shared their knowledge with those in attendance and whose contribution we highly value. I'd like to thank all the participants for their active listening and participation, especially our regional brothers and sisters who made the journey to take part in this event. We hope you enjoyed your stay in Trinidad and Tobago and

since we had a tightly packed schedule for our programme, we hope that you return to visit us at a casual level to enjoy more of our culture and our beautiful twin-island republic.

Ladies and gentlemen, since the RedVUCE meetings are an annual event, we look forward to seeing you again at the XI Meeting in 2019, when we shall reconvene to discuss other topics in the theme of Single Windows. Thank you.