

**SPECIAL DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES
ON THE CANDIDACY BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ARMS
TRADE TREATY**

In view that the Arms Trade Treaty was concluded at the United Nations Headquarters, New York on April 2, 2012, adopted by majority of States during the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and that the treaty which was opened for signature on June 3, 2013.

Underlining Trinidad and Tobago's interest to host the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty, announced by Trinidad and Tobago at the signing ceremony for this Treaty at the United Nations Headquarters on 3rd June, 2013

Considering the Arms Trade Treaty entered into force on December 24th, 2014:

- Welcome the decision taken at the GRULAC meeting held on December 22nd, 2014, in New York, whereby the Group formally endorsed the candidature of Trinidad and Tobago to host the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty, a demonstration of the level of solidarity and of the fraternal relations which exist among members of GRULAC;
- Call on nations to support the importance of having diversification in location of international organizations in areas other than Europe and North America. Developing countries at the United Nations have advanced the need to adhere to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the location of major international organizations. This principle has found expression in various resolution adopted by the General Assembly. The continuation of the practice whereby there exists a disproportionate number of major global institutions, located in developed countries is contrary to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and also fails to take into consideration the important contribution that has been made and continues to be made by developing countries to international peace and development.
- Recognize that in preparation of the First Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, Trinidad and Tobago will host the First Preparatory Meeting towards the First Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, which will take place on February 23rd and 24th, 2015 in Port of Spain.
- Support likewise the interest of the Government of México to host the First Conference of State Parties of the Treaty, in 2015.

Belén, Costa Rica, January 29th, 2015