



Organization of
American States

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OFFICE

*Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement Toolkit Training and Workshop
Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
August 20, 2015*

Opening Remarks by Dr. Riyad Insanally, OAS Representative, Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Indira Ramkissoon, Director, Legal Services, Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs
Mr. Randy Maurice, Senior Energy Analyst, Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs
Distinguished Consultants and Participants

As pleased as I am to address the opening ceremony of this workshop, I do regret that my colleague, Carolina Peña, could not herself be physically present to see the realisation of all her hard work. I understand, though, that she has been able to participate via Skype and I am therefore reassured that you will forgive my own ignorance of the more technical aspects of this exercise.

Ms. Peña has very kindly been keeping me informed with regard to the implementation of this project, in response to a request by the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs for OAS technical assistance in the design of a toolkit for the development of renewable energy power purchase agreements and contracts.

We are very happy to be able to deliver on this request, through our Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI), which comes under the auspices of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, with financing from the Government of the United States of America.

Ms. Ramkissoon has referred to Trinidad and Tobago's submission to the Secretariat for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The OAS is pleased to note that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has indicated its commitment to decouple greenhouse gas emissions and economic growth and to achieve an "optimal energy mix with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions". As part of this commitment, the Government is targeting 15% carbon reductions in power generation, heavy industry and transport over the next 15 years, modelled on a business-as-usual baseline. This is equivalent to slashing 102 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. On behalf of the OAS, I commend the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on this bold commitment.

One of the main challenges identified is the absence of a supporting legal and regulatory framework for renewable energy power generation. Currently, a standard contract for renewable electricity generators does not exist and, in this regard, the Government is working on a review of existing legislation, such as the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission Act and the Regulated Industries Commission Act, to enable renewable energy generators to access the grid at both the distribution and transmission levels. The aim is to create an enabling environment for potential renewable energy investors.

The assistance from the OAS's Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative, yesterday and today, therefore involves key local stakeholders, yourselves included, in support of the objective of acquiring the requisite information and knowledge to make amendments to existing legislation to promote renewable energy grid integration, and to design a toolkit for the development of renewable energy power purchase agreements and contracts. In the latter respect, a model power purchase agreement (PPA) will be developed to ensure that effective contracts can be created for renewable energy generators seeking long-term and secure investments. An associated training activity on the use of the PPA is intended to assist in the construction of suitable contract options under the Feed-in Tariff scheme that the country is exploring, for both large and small renewable energy generators.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you are well aware, Trinidad and Tobago is rich in oil and gas but these are finite assets. We are therefore pleased to note that renewable energy, energy efficiency and alternative energy are articulated in the Government's Renewable Energy Policy Framework, which is being incorporated into its Draft Energy Policy Green Paper. Energy is, of course, critical to nearly every aspect of economic development for all countries and such a policy framework is integral to achieving sustainable development. We, at the OAS, feel privileged to support this thrust.

It remains for me simply to express our deep appreciation for the funding provided by the US Government through the State Department; to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs for their spirit of collaboration and efficiency in hosting this workshop; to Meister Consultants Group for supporting the development of the model PPA; and to you, ladies and gentlemen for your participation and kind attention.

Thank you very much.