

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2025

PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE, ECONOMY, CULTURE AND WAY OF
LIFE
INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR COUNTERTERRORISM

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List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AML/CFT/CPF	Anti-Money Laundering, Counter Financing of Terrorism and Counter Proliferation Financing
ATA	Anti-Terrorism Act
CA	Competent Authority
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CFATF	Caribbean Financial Action Task Force
CICTE	Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
CT	Counterterrorism
CTOP	Crisis Management and Counterterrorism Operations Response Plan
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
ESSI	Energy Sector Security Initiative
FI	Financial Institution
FIB	Financial Investigations Branch
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FIUTT	Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighter
GORTT	Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ID	Immigration Division
IMCCT	Inter-Ministerial Committee for Counterterrorism
IMPACS	Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
ISAC	Information Sharing and Analysis Centre
ISIL/ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
JCOC	Joint Cyber Operations Committee
LB	Listed Business
ML	Money Laundering
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MFCA	Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
MPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NAMLC	National Anti-Money Laundering Committee
NDTS	National Digital Transformation Strategy
NIAC	National Inter-Agency Council
NIFC	National Intelligence Fusion Centre
NOFC	National Operations Fusion Centre
NPC	National Point of Contact
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
NSCS	National Security Council Secretariat
NSTA	National Security Training Academy
NSC	National Security Council
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
OAS	Organization of American States

ODPM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management
PF	Proliferation Financing
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SSA	Strategic Services Agency
TF	Terrorism Financing
TFN	Task Force Nightingale
TFS	Targeted Financial Sanctions
TTNPS	Trinidad and Tobago's National AML/CFT/CPF Policy and Strategy
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution

Foreword

This National Counterterrorism Strategy, building on the 2017 version, reflects our commitment to safeguarding our people, preserving our thriving oil and gas and tourism sectors, and ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago remain a beacon of security and hospitality. By addressing evolving threats with proactive measures and fostering collaboration at all levels, we reinforce our national resilience and dedication to protecting our way of life.

The safety, security, and prosperity of our nation are paramount to sustaining the vibrant economy and rich cultural heritage that define our twin islands. As a nation heavily reliant on the oil and gas sector and tourism industry, we recognize that any threat to our security could have significant consequences for both our citizens and the global community that we proudly host. In an increasingly interconnected world, the threat of terrorism is ever evolving, necessitating a proactive and coordinated approach to ensure the resilience of our people, critical infrastructure, and economy.

This National Counterterrorism Strategy reflects our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our islands from acts of terrorism and violent extremism. Focused on the strategic objectives of prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and recovery, this comprehensive framework outlines our strategic priorities to mitigate threats, enhance national resilience, and foster collaboration among government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and international partners.

Our approach is guided by the understanding that protecting our oil and gas infrastructure and ensuring the safety of our tourism sector are critical to maintaining economic stability and national well-being. This strategy emphasizes the importance of robust intelligence and information-sharing mechanisms, strengthened border security, and advanced surveillance capabilities to detect and deter potential threats. Equally important is our commitment to addressing the root causes of radicalization by promoting social cohesion, economic opportunities, and inclusive governance.

Recognizing that no nation can combat terrorism alone, we place immense value on fostering regional and international cooperation. Through partnerships with neighbouring Caribbean nations, global security organizations, and key allies, we aim to strengthen collective capabilities and share best practices to counter evolving threats. By aligning our efforts with international standards and legal frameworks, we reinforce our dedication to upholding human rights and the rule of law in all counterterrorism measures.

As we implement this strategy, we call upon all citizens, public and private sectors, and communities to play an active role in safeguarding our country. Building a resilient society requires vigilance, collaboration, and a shared commitment to preserving the peace and prosperity of our islands. Together, we will confront the challenges of terrorism with determination, ensuring that our nation remains a safe and thriving destination for generations to come.

Honourable Wayne Sturge M.P.
Minister of Defence

Executive Summary

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) is dedicated to protecting its citizens, economy, and way of life from terrorism while promoting human rights and democratic values. This strategy document builds on its previous version from 2017 and outlines a comprehensive approach to prevent and counter terrorism and terrorism financing in Trinidad and Tobago.

Due to its unique geographical, economic, and social characteristics, Trinidad and Tobago requires a tailored approach to safeguard its communities, preserve its economic stability, and maintain its cultural heritage. This strategy emphasizes a balanced approach, integrating protection, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, with a strong focus on capacity building, regulatory and legislative frameworks, and public, private partnerships towards enhancing community empowerment and engagement, international cooperation, and sustainable development.

This National Counterterrorism Strategy outlines a comprehensive approach based on five mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: (1) Prevention, (2) Protection, (3) Preparedness, (4) Response and (5) Recovery. Recognizing the strategic importance of its oil and gas industry and tourism sectors, Trinidad and Tobago aims to mitigate risks that could disrupt these vital economic drivers.

Prevention focuses on addressing the root causes of radicalization through intelligence-sharing, social inclusion, and proactive community empowerment and engagement. By fostering partnerships with regional and international organizations, Trinidad and Tobago aims to identify and neutralize emerging threats before they can manifest themselves.

Protection emphasizes securing critical infrastructure (such as oil and gas facilities, government offices and other state assets, ports of entry, main thoroughfares, and tourist

attractions) and large scale national, sporting, and cultural events. Enhanced cybersecurity measures, advanced surveillance systems, and stringent security protocols at public events ensure that both citizens and foreigners can enjoy a safe environment.

Preparedness ensures that law enforcement and security agencies, prosecutorial arms and the Judiciary are fully apprised of their respective roles in countering terrorism; that the criminal justice system is continually strengthened; that data and information sharing mechanisms among intelligence, law enforcement and security agencies are strengthened; that there are continued and sustained efforts at combatting terrorist financing, money laundering and proliferation financing; that cooperation and intelligence sharing is practised; and that counterterrorism operational response capabilities are credible and enhanced.

Response involves maintaining specialized rapid-response teams trained to manage terrorist incidents, ensuring coordinated emergency services, and implementing clear crisis communication channels to keep the public informed. These measures are designed to minimize the impact of any potential attack and support swift recovery.

Recovery ensures that the impact of terrorist incidents are effectively managed and affected individuals and communities are supported. It will also ensure services, facilities and living conditions are restored in the shortest possible time, and a 'new normal' established.

The strategy is led by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Counterterrorism (IMCCT), which coordinates efforts across government agencies, law enforcement, and the private sector. Collaborative partnerships with the oil and gas industry, the tourism sector, and civil society further bolster national resilience. Legislative measures have been strengthened to criminalize terrorism financing, recruitment, and propaganda, aligning with international legal standards.

In today's global society, terrorism, and terrorist acts, have become intertwined with transnational criminal activities as terrorists seek to air their grievances by violent means and strive for financial gain to achieve a specific goal. No country is immune to terrorist acts, as terrorists – whether foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) or home-grown violent extremists - continue to pose a grave threat to the national security of all nations. As a result, international and regional bodies, governments, law enforcement and intelligence agencies across the world have demonstrated their commitment to the fight against terrorism through several measures including legislative, regulatory, policy and collaborative measures and adherence to several international instruments instituted to resolve these coexistent issues.

Trinidad and Tobago continues to actively promote local interagency collaboration, integration and coordination through training exercises and maintains relationships with regional and international partners, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), the United States of America, the

United Kingdom, the European Union, the United Nations, and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and others, to enhance operational readiness and information sharing. Continuous monitoring and evaluation ensure that counterterrorism efforts remain effective and adaptable to evolving threats.

This 2025 Counterterrorism Strategy reflects Trinidad and Tobago's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its people, democracy, and economy. By proactively addressing threats, strengthening critical infrastructure, and maintaining emergency preparedness, Trinidad and Tobago aims to prevent terrorism while preserving its openness and hospitality. Through resilience, collaboration, and vigilance, Trinidad and Tobago stands resolute against terrorism, ensuring a secure and prosperous future for all.

The Counterterrorism Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago will be reviewed in five (5) years, or as required based upon changes to the threat landscape, to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago maintains currency.

Terrorism and Trinidad and Tobago

In 1990, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago faced its most significant security challenge and the resulting adversity from an act of terrorism that sought to disrupt our peace and prosperity. Yet, through resilience, unity, and unwavering determination, our nation overcame this challenge.

Twenty-four years later the global security environment witnessed significant changes in the evolution of terrorism that would once again involve Trinidad and Tobago.

The emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIS, also known as ISIL, in 2014 resulted in a number of nationals of Trinidad and Tobago travelling as foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to join the caliphate in territory controlled by ISIS in Iraq and Syria, making the country the highest contributor of FTFs per capita.

Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters

The repatriation of Trinidad and Tobago nationals, women, and children, from conflict zones in Iraq and Syria remains a top policy priority of the GORTT.

A few citizens and their entire families (including children) voluntarily migrated to conflict zones in support of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). With the fall of the caliphate in 2018, and the resulting negative change in fortunes, they now face considerable challenges. The GORTT, as a responsible government, remains committed to ensuring that arrangements are made for their safe repatriation, deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The GORTT repatriation of nationals is an ongoing effort. Intelligence and law enforcement agencies continue to conduct assessments to mitigate the risks posed by

Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (RFTFs). Interagency coordination and collaboration among local and international intelligence and law enforcement agencies is key.

In 2018, the GORTT constituted the Task Force Nightingale (TFN), a multidisciplinary and multi-agency team to address the repatriation, deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, held in refugee and detention camps in Syria and Iraq.

TFN developed a National Policy and Procedures for Addressing Persons Entering/Returning from Conflict Zones (Returnee Policy) that was approved by the Cabinet and a Draft National Plan of Action for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE).

Recommendations for implementing the Returnee Policy and institutional strengthening to treat the myriad vulnerabilities, risks and threats associated with the repatriation of nationals include:

- Capacity building around Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies for key Stakeholders, which included enhanced engagement among the local Muslim community, NGOs, Civil Society and their training to support de-radicalization and reintegration. The United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Commonwealth Secretariat and Hedayah¹ supported training. There is also international support from bilateral partners.
- A proposal to amend the Anti-Terrorism [ATA] Legislation in 2020 has been converted to crafting of the Returnee Bill of 2024 (for legislative support to the Returnee Policy),

and advice that equip governments and civil society to design, implement and monitor effective and sustainable terrorism prevention approaches.

¹ <https://hedayah.com/> Hedayah is an organization that seeks to counter extremism and violent extremism through programs, research, resources

which forms part of the current legislative agenda.

- The establishment of a National Director for Counterterrorism and a National PCVE Coordinator through which all information and intelligence about the GORTT Counterterrorism efforts and institutional knowledge would be stored.

In 2023, a three-person Repatriation Committee was appointed by the Prime Minister, as an interface with civil society, to

allow citizens to provide information and documentation on their family members in Syria and Iraq. This committee will assist in the repatriation verification process, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and re-integration processes.

The relevant state agencies continue to engage local and foreign counterparts to account for Trinidad and Tobago Nationals in the camps and detention facilities, and monitoring of their current activities continues.

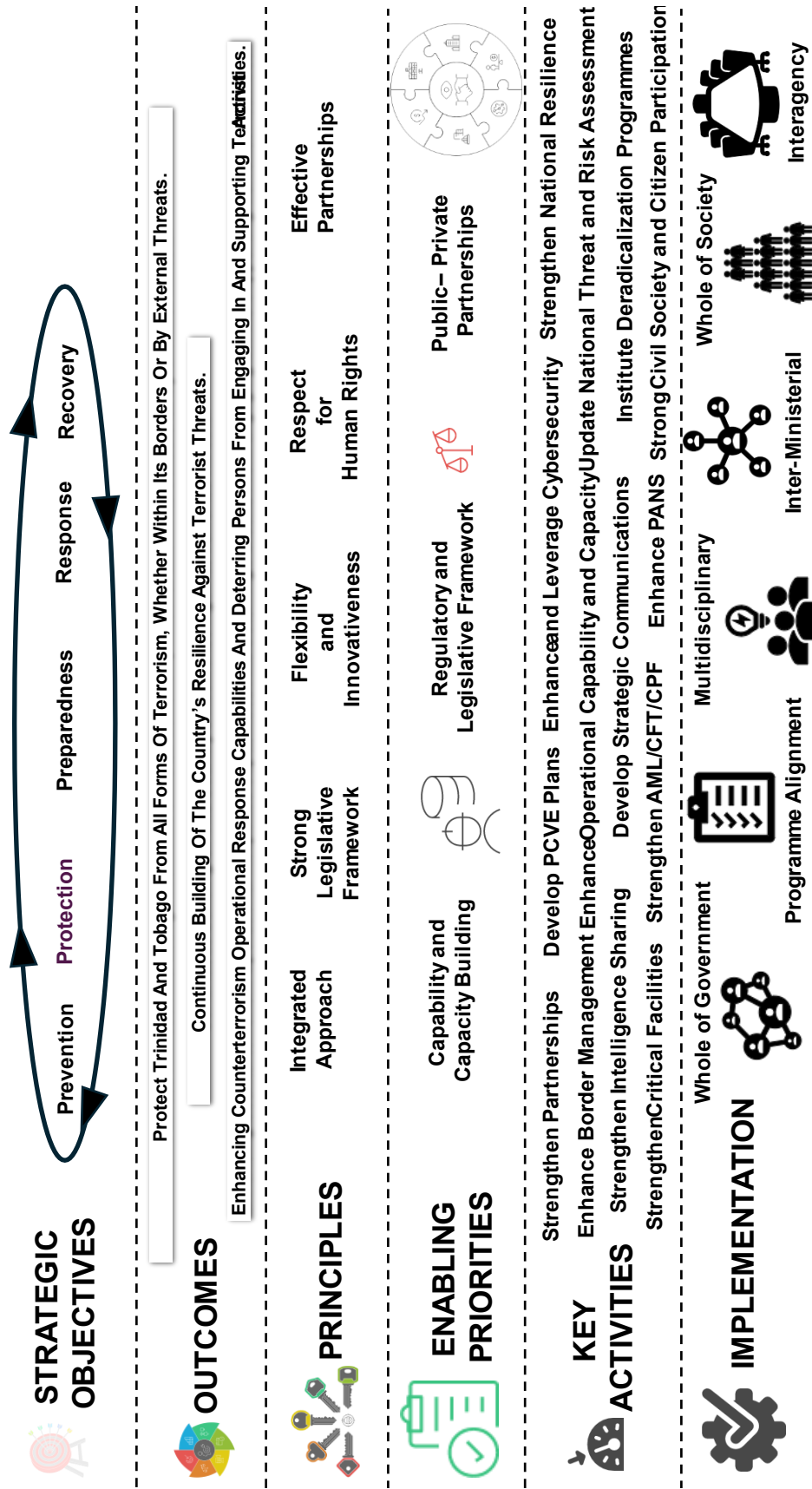


Figure 1 Trinidad and Tobago's Counterterrorism Strategy

Trinidad and Tobago's Counterterrorism Strategy

Strategic Priority

The aim of this Counterterrorism Strategy is to protect Trinidad and Tobago from all forms of terrorism, whether within its borders or by external threats. This Strategy will focus on the continuous building of the country's resilience, enhancing counterterrorism operational response capabilities and deterring persons from engaging in and supporting terrorist activities.

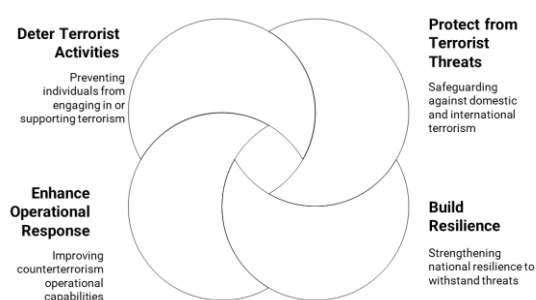


Figure 2 Strategic Priorities

Principles

The Strategy is based on five (5) principles which are expected to guide the development and execution of Trinidad and Tobago's national counterterrorism objectives. The five principles are:

Strong Legislative Framework

Trinidad and Tobago has a duty to protect its citizens and prevent or deter terrorist acts from occurring. This principle establishes that as a nation, Trinidad and Tobago adamantly condemns the financing, planning, preparation, or perpetration of terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training against the state and its citizenry. Adherence to the rule of law signifies that appropriate steps will be taken to ensure the apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators of terrorist acts through rigorous enhancement of the criminal justice system. The nation's legal framework against terrorism and terrorist acts continues to be aligned with the rule of law,

international human rights law and international humanitarian law and Trinidad and Tobago's international obligations, in particular those emanating from the A/RES/60/288, UNSCR: S/RES/1540(2004); UNSCR 1267(1999); UNSCR 1988(2011), UNSCR 1373(2001), UNSCR 2178(2014), UNSCR 2253 (2015) and successor resolutions.

Notably, the Anti-Terrorism Act, Chap. 12:07 (ATA) is the primary piece of legislation which criminalises terrorism and the financing of terrorism, provides for the detection, prevention, prosecution, conviction and punishment of terrorist acts and the confiscation, forfeiture and seizure of terrorists' funds or assets and of those involved in the financing of terrorism and for related matters. The Act further establishes various offences under Parts II, III and IIIA, which encompasses "terrorist acts" and encompasses key offences under the international framework for countering terrorism and terrorist financing. The ATA work in tandem with other key pieces of legislation established under Trinidad and Tobago's AML/CFT/CPF framework which includes, inter alia, the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01, the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chap. 11:27, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 72:01.

An integrated whole of government and whole of country approach to the fight against terrorism and terrorism financing

There will be enhanced coordination and collaboration amongst national stakeholders in countering terrorism and terrorism financing to facilitate the detection and prevention of the movement of terrorists. There must also be stakeholder buy-in from all arms of government as well as the private sector, academia, civil society, faith-based organisations, and the public. Building resilience requires all sectors of society to be made aware of and knowledgeable, through appropriate messaging, about terrorism and

terrorism financing and develop a resolve to report any information to the authorities.

Respect for Human Rights

Trinidad and Tobago recognises that the adoption of effective counterterrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not incongruous goals, but complementary and mutually enforceable. This country is ever cognisant of the human rights of all persons in its pursuit to fight terrorism and terrorism financing and will guard against any infringement or abrogation of a person's fundamental human rights in accordance with the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago and international human rights law.

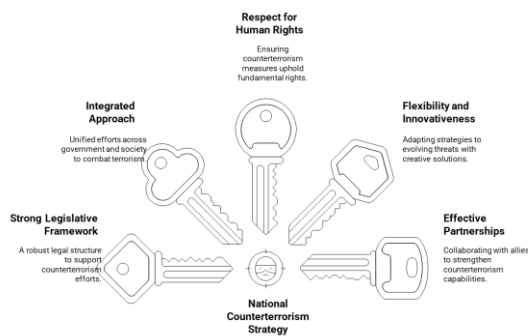


Figure 3 Principles that guide the Counterterrorism Strategy

Flexibility and innovativeness

Trinidad and Tobago is aware that the threat of terrorism and terrorism financing is constantly evolving and consequently, counterterrorism measures must be adaptable to the nature of the threat, the actors involved and their goals, scope, and capabilities. Mechanisms must be developed in a manner that allows for easy adaptability to the dynamic environment. Proactive steps must be taken to address the root causes of terrorism and terrorism financing through actively countering the rhetoric and propaganda disseminated by terrorist individuals and groups.

Effective partnerships

Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges the importance of establishing and maintaining effective partnerships and cooperating with other countries, as well as international, regional, and local agencies that can assist in the fight against terrorism and terrorism financing. Given the dynamic nature of terrorism and terrorism financing in the rapidly changing technological, social and security environment, collaboration through effective partnerships is essential to securing the nation and its citizens.

Strategic Objectives

The Counterterrorism Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago is hinged upon five (5) mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: PROTECTION, PREVENTION; PREPAREDNESS; RESPONSE and RECOVERY and three (3) enabling priorities: Capacity and Capability Building; Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks; and Public-Private Partnerships. These embody the nation's commitment to addressing the scourge of terrorism and terrorism financing that has touched every corner of the world. They also represent a comprehensive and proportionate response to any domestic and international terrorist threat. It should be understood also that activities under these objectives may overlap and may be undertaken concurrently.

These objectives require dedicated efforts at the national level to mitigate the risks associated with terrorism and terrorism financing. They set out processes to better protect potential targets; prevent terrorist attacks, recruitment, and planning; pursue and investigate terrorist networks; and improve our capabilities to respond to and manage the consequences of any terrorist acts.

Prevention

Prevention focuses on addressing the root causes of radicalization through intelligence-sharing, social inclusion, and proactive community empowerment and engagement. By fostering partnerships with regional and international organizations, Trinidad and Tobago aims to identify and neutralize emerging threats before they can manifest themselves.

Protection

Protection emphasizes securing critical infrastructure (such as oil and gas facilities, government buildings and other state assets, ports of entry, tourist attractions and main thoroughfares) and largescale national, cultural, and sporting events. Enhanced cybersecurity measures, advanced surveillance

systems, and stringent security protocols at public events ensure that both citizens and foreigners can enjoy a safe environment.

Both strategic objectives of Prevention and Protection focus on safeguarding the nation, inclusive of but not limited to, its democratic institutions, citizens, economy, international reputation, and critical facilities from terrorist acts. Trinidad and Tobago will adopt mitigating measures to effectively address and reduce its vulnerability to terrorist acts emanating from within and outside its borders. This will be achieved by enhancing capacity and competencies through a combination of research and development methodologies, training, and testing. Additionally, there will be the improvement of mechanisms for detection via technological advancement, more efficient processes, and the professional development of human resources. There is also a need to identify and counter the methods, propaganda, and conditions through which people are drawn into terrorism and terrorism financing. Deterring persons from turning to terrorism by addressing the root causes which can lead to forms of extremism and recruitment in Trinidad and Tobago is key. Preventing the support of terrorism and terrorism financing, restricting terrorists' ability to operate (plan, train, recruit, travel, communicate) and preventing a terrorist attack is critical. Prevention and Protection are centred on the understanding that the detection of threats at the earliest possible stage and the disruption of terrorist activity before the activity becomes deleterious to the nation is a key component of national efforts.

The following key activities will assist in the achievement of the strategic objectives of Prevention and Protection:

- Strengthening international, regional and national partnerships.
- Enhance the border management and intelligence-sharing mechanism.
- Strengthening critical facilities and national institutions.

- Continue to employ and improve the Public Alert Notification System (PANS) and other forms of mass notification.
- Develop common approaches to identify and deter behaviors that lead to the perpetration of terrorist acts.
- Develop an effective media and communication strategy against violent extremism as a component of a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) National Action Plan.

Strengthen international, regional, and national partnerships.

Trinidad and Tobago’s bilateral and multi-lateral diplomacy is one of its most critical tools in enabling a successful counter terrorism effort. Trinidad and Tobago will seek to foster cooperative and collaborative efforts with other countries through the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and other relevant ministries. This will aid with the issuance of travel advisories for citizens, requests for profiles of deportees with suspected radical backgrounds and associations, amongst other priorities. There will be a focus on the sharing of critical information while being mindful of Trinidad and Tobago’s international obligations to third party States. Law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community will also establish and strengthen ties with their foreign counterparts to better monitor emerging trends and targets. A coordinated approach is the key to strengthening national capabilities.

Methods by which this will be achieved include:

- Activating and utilizing existing MOUs, Letters of Agreement and Treaties.
- Ensuring full compliance with existing legal instruments.
- Establishing liaisons within nations in the fight against terrorism.
- Promoting dialogue and cooperation with international

organizations and agencies and building strong relationships in terms of technical assistance, training and best practices, that is, capacity building.

- Encouraging information sharing through bilateral cooperation with law enforcement and intelligence agencies; and
- Developing new agreements to improve and support these relationships.

As the country where the Prime Minister is the Lead Head for Crime and Security in CARICOM’s Quasi Cabinet, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to encourage CARICOM entities and structures to bolster information sharing through the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and its subunits the Joint Regional Communications Centre and the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre and the CARICOM Standing Committees.

Enhance the border management and intelligence mechanism.

Trinidad and Tobago currently utilises the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) and International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code and will soon introduce the Advanced Cargo Information System to increase security awareness. Improved security plans at various facilities have been implemented and assessed.

Law enforcement and intelligence agencies continue to identify and monitor persons of interest to detect and prevent the perpetration of terrorist acts and the movement of terrorists. It is important to maintain vigilance, produce relevant threat assessments, undertake policy engagement and crisis management exercises, and increase inter-agency collaboration.

Trinidad and Tobago will therefore embark on several initiatives aimed at strengthening border management and the intelligence mechanism. These include:

- Enhancing the watch list of travelers: This initiative will take the form of a continuous, 'real time' watch list in which persons of interest, wanted persons, as well as persons labelled as terrorists are flagged and monitored. Utilizing watch list capabilities to capture biometrics (photographs, fingerprints) of suspected terrorists
- Upgrading existing databases allow agencies to monitor people whose travel patterns/documents indicate previous or continuous visits to known areas of conflict or radicalization. This will be set up in such a way that once people are flagged, a comprehensive investigation will be started to determine if they are a threat to the state.
- Access to the INTERPOL Information System which enhances national and international security including criminal and terrorist groups
- Increasing vigilance at ports of entry in identifying persons of interest and their travel patterns.
- Standardizing and streamlining of security plans at ports of entry.
- Monitoring deportees who have been exposed to terrorist/extremist activities.
- Introduction of E-passports for Trinidad and Tobago with updated facial recognition biometrics (Q1 2026)
- Establishment of the online arrival/departure card (pending legislative arrangements)
- Fortifying the national intelligence architecture and its counterterrorism capability to prevent and monitor extremist and terrorist-related activities.
- Strengthening border controls to prevent and detect the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives, and

nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials.

Strengthen critical facilities and national institutions.

Trinidad and Tobago must mitigate against, protect itself from, and position itself to recover from extreme circumstances caused by disasters regardless of hazard type on a national level. In support of these objectives, the Critical Facilities Protection Programme will focus specifically on structures, facilities and systems which have been classified as essential to the functioning of society. ²The GORTT will seek closer collaboration with private sector operators to improve defences against terrorists by embedding security measures that reduce vulnerabilities. The public and private partnership between government and other stakeholders will therefore enable the continuous upgrade of critical infrastructure protection plans, procedures and systems as threats evolve.

The GORTT has also acknowledged the importance of promoting stronger institutional and organisational links to improve governance, transparency and accountability and seeks to facilitate these aims through the strengthening of institutions and organisations essential to the State. These include but are not limited to the Parliament, Executive and the Judiciary. To this end, the GORTT will continue to protect key national institutions to always enable a functional democracy.

Continue to employ and improve the Public Alert Notification System (PANS) and other forms of mass notification.

The traditional and social media, SMS notifications via MOUs with telecommunications service providers and the Public Alert Notification System (PANS) establishes the conditions that allow all security and emergency entities to be capable of responding in a timely and appropriate

² Critical Infrastructure Protection Policy Framework (2010)

manner to hazards, threats or incidents that affect the State. It will allow rapid, effective, and efficient deployment and use of resources to mitigate the impact of the exposed hazard, threat, and incident. The system will facilitate key Government officials to effectively communicate with all affected persons or the population, in an appropriate manner and so prevent excessive anxiety, panic and activities that are counter-productive to national societal safety and security. It will also guide the population in taking appropriate steps/safeguards to protect themselves and their families and loved ones to help prevent, mitigate, or respond to the threat.

The mass notification systems will facilitate:

- Detecting, monitoring the hazard/threat.
- Analyzing risks and incorporating risk information in emergency planning and warnings.

- Disseminating timely and “authoritative” warnings.
- Community planning and preparedness and ability to activate emergency plans to prepare and respond with coordination across agencies throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Additionally, ongoing risk and threat assessments will be undertaken to determine threat levels. The findings of these assessments will assist with the implementation of targeted and risk-based measures to effectively mitigate against such identified risks or threats.



Figure 4 Public Alert Notification System

Develop common approaches to identify and deter behaviours that lead to the perpetration of terrorist acts.

Social policies and programmes can help to reduce the number of prospective recruits by reducing their perceived grievances and providing communities with viable alternatives to terrorist involvement. In the effort to identify and deter behaviours that lead to the perpetration of terrorist acts, the GORTT will develop and enhance, where necessary, social programmes which will not only target at-risk youth that are vulnerable to participate in terrorist activities but all citizens. These programmes will be implemented through collaborative approaches between the Ministry of Defence and all relevant Ministries and stakeholders. Young people will be approached through the nation's educational and developmental institutions.

The social programmes can provide platforms through which counter radicalization and de-radicalization measures can be implemented. These programmes will be implemented alongside a robust counter-messaging campaign designed to undermine extremist and terrorist ideologies at the national level. In countering violent extremism, the GORTT will:

- Identify the risk factors which predispose persons, including women and children to provide support to or sympathize with radical extremists.
- Develop new programmes and initiatives and redesign existing ones where necessary, to target the risk factors which may contribute to violent extremism and radicalization.
- Train and engage social workers and other relevant professionals to implement and execute CVE programmes.
- Establish a Returnee Care and Assessment Facility for persons entering/returning from conflict zones and implement, monitor and evaluate

programmes for deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Develop an effective counterterrorism media and communications strategy.

To develop a counter narrative against violent extremism and increase citizens' awareness of the dangers of terrorism and terrorism financing and its effects, the GORTT will design and implement public and specialised awareness campaigns to:

- Heighten citizen awareness of existing legislation e.g. Anti-Terrorism Act, Chapter 12:07 and ensure they are informed about the consequences of becoming and or affiliating with terrorists and terrorist entities.
- Expand initiatives within the Ministry of Defence to include cognizance of suspicious terrorist-related activity among the citizenry and to encourage persons to file reports to divisional police stations or designated hotline numbers.
- Target at-risk people and/or families to dissuade them from engaging in extremist behavior and harboring extremism and identify early signs of the behavior within the community.
- Engage all religious leaders (e.g. Inter-Religious Organization) to assist in developing strategies for denouncing radical extremism as well as dissuading persons from joining terrorist organizations.
- Engage various stakeholders including schools, community groups and business organizations inclusive of hotels, guesthouses, landlords, telecommunication providers, media houses, Business Chambers, etc. to raise their level of awareness of violent extremism.

Preparedness

The GORTT will vigorously investigate persons involved in terrorist-related activity who may target the country and its interests and bring such persons to justice. It is therefore critical to impede planning and communications; to dismantle associations and disrupt support networks; to stymie growth, curtail funding and halt access to economic, human, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRNE) resources which can be utilised to facilitate and/or fuel a terrorist attack. This objective is anchored on the advancement of two main approaches; intelligence gathering and promotion of criminal justice. Accordingly, the objective seeks to ensure that persons who are engaged in supporting or financing of terrorism, whether directly or indirectly, are investigated, and brought to justice.

Key activities

Trinidad and Tobago will therefore seek to ensure the preparedness of the country in the context of terrorist threats. Measures to accomplish this include:

Ensure that law enforcement and security agencies, prosecution and judiciary are fully apprised of their role in countering terrorism.

- Strengthen the criminal justice system specific to counterterrorism and countering the financing of terrorism.
- Strengthening data-sharing mechanisms between identified private agencies and law enforcement and security agencies.
- Continue to combat terrorist financing.
- Ensure cooperation and intelligence sharing.
- Enhance counterterrorism operational response capabilities.
- Leveraging Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies for Counterterrorism Resilience

Ensure that law enforcement and security agencies, prosecution and the Judiciary are fully seized of their role in countering terrorism and terrorism financing.

It is imperative that all relevant stakeholders including law enforcement, prosecutors, magistrates and judges engage in contemporary legal training in the area of counterterrorism law, and develop suitable methodologies for, inter alia, the admissibility of sensitive and secret material in a court of law to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. Trinidad and Tobago will develop rules, mechanisms, and procedures for the expeditious outcome of terrorist matters while accommodating sufficiently robust oversight arrangements to preserve the rule of law and due process.

In line with the rule of law, police powers and criminal procedure must be flexible to mitigate risks associated with terrorist-related investigations. Criminal trials for persons accused of terrorist-related activities pose inherent social, psychological, and physical risks for all participants: law enforcement, court staff, attorneys, witnesses, intelligence and prison officials and the public. The disclosure process, such as anonymity to prevent identification, along with procedural and evidentiary rules which allow law enforcement and intelligence agencies to conduct covert investigative techniques are necessary to produce evidence of terrorist-related activities. Further, plea bargaining with appropriate safeguards also has a role to play in the investigation and prosecution. Oversight, independence of prosecutors and the impartiality of the Judiciary are key factors to ensuring that additional powers granted to law enforcement and intelligence agencies are employed appropriately.

Strengthen the Criminal Justice System

A transformed criminal justice system will consist of contemporary legal mechanisms for the timely investigation, prosecution, adjudication, detention, and punishment of persons suspected or guilty of terrorist-related

activity. Contemporary legal mechanisms would include robust legislation for: the collection of electronic and other forms of evidence, interviewing of suspects, witness protection, witness cooperation, and mutual legal assistance all within an impartial and independent legal framework.

Criminal trials for persons accused of terrorist-related activities would require prioritisation in the court system given the inherent psychological and physical risks for all participants, law enforcement, court staff, attorneys, witnesses, intelligence officials and the public. To mitigate the risks whilst simultaneously respecting due process and human rights-based frameworks, consideration must be given to the prioritisation of terrorist related trials. This would include fast tracking: the start date of criminal trials, the analysis of items of evidentiary value by forensic and other agencies and eliminating jury trials or having special juries consisting of persons who are knowledgeable in given fields, who are then sequestered and protected during trials. For fast-tracking to be effective, law enforcement agencies, judicial officers and prosecutors would benefit from specialised law enforcement, adjudication and prosecutorial training in terrorism and terrorism financing cases to build capacity and competency.

Additionally, penal institutions, their processes and programmes will be strengthened to manage incarcerated persons who have been charged with or convicted of terrorist-related activity. Terrorists can use their incarceration to mobilise support outside of prisons and to swiftly radicalise other prisoners. While security is paramount, consideration will be given for the secure placement of prisoners in appropriate facilities whilst simultaneously offering reformation services and programmes. Prison programmes that offer counter radicalization and de-radicalization measures, using other individuals and organisations, will be developed and implemented. These initiatives are valuable

tools which the State will employ in managing persons incarcerated for terrorist-related activities, prior to their re-integration into communities.

Strengthen data-sharing mechanisms between identity agencies and law enforcement and security agencies.

Data is a valuable tool for intelligence officers and law enforcement investigators and will provide an invaluable means by which law enforcement and security agencies and other agencies can better safeguard the public and the country at large. The use of data is essential for investigation and disruption of any emerging terrorist threat to this country. Data analysis seeks to quickly and effectively identify people engaged in terrorist activity and their location. One key aspect of the data relates to confirming suspects' identities, communications, travel, and money transfers. The collection and use of data must be subject to proper oversight to ensure individuals' right to privacy is protected and must be relevant and proportionate in line with data protection laws while an investigation is underway.

An established legal basis for developing access to data and developing appropriate collection storage and dissemination technology is vital for an investigation. Memoranda of Agreement will be established among identified agencies to support and strengthen the information-sharing platform and safeguard against breaches of confidentiality.

Some data that is relevant to investigations is held by third parties. A structured system for the collection of this data will be established in support of law enforcement's conduct of the necessary analysis.

Continue to combat terrorist financing: Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and Combatting Proliferation Financing:

Trinidad and Tobago integrates a robust framework for disrupting funding mechanisms supporting terrorism into its counterterrorism

strategy. The country however does not take a siloed approach to combating terrorism financing and fully countenances the interlinkages with countering money laundering and proliferation financing. Through compliance with international obligations as set out in UNSCRs and multilateral agreements and by aligning with international standards such as FATF recommendations, Trinidad and Tobago has strengthened its regulatory framework to detect and prevent financial crimes. The GORTT has established a National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC), whereby key AML/CFT/CPF competent authorities chart a unified strategy to mitigating AML/CFT/CPF risks. Enhanced collaboration, coordination and cooperation amongst law enforcement authorities, intelligence agencies, supervisory authorities, other key competent authorities, together with close collaboration with financial institutions and listed business ensures that effective, timely and constructive approaches are implemented to combatting Terrorist Financing as well as any related Money Laundering, and Proliferation Financing. Through proactive measures, Trinidad and Tobago aims to eliminate the economic lifelines that sustain terrorism, protecting both national security and global stability. Trinidad and Tobago's integrated approach to anti-money laundering, combating terrorism financing and proliferation financing is clearly articulated in the National AML/CFT/CPF Policy and Strategy (the TTNPS). The TTNPS complements and supports the national counterterrorism strategy. In developing interagency and departmental policies, strategies, priorities, and action plans and activities, account shall be taken of information and intelligence obtained through TF investigations, prosecutions, and convictions. In this regard, relevant authorities

shall share such information and intelligence with counterparts subject to the requirements of all relevant laws.

To maintain or ensure compliance with international standards, legislation will be developed to deal with the issues of:

Targeted and Risk-Based Approach of Non-Profit Organisations

Trinidad and Tobago, in line with our international obligations has adopted a risk based approach to ensure that NPOs are protected from abuse by terrorist individuals or organisations for the purposes of terrorist financing. NPOs play a vital role in the country's economy and social system in providing essential services, comfort, and hope to those in need and the vulnerable in the society. It therefore remains the policy of Trinidad and Tobago that competent authorities will strike a careful balance between protecting NPOs from TF abuse and ensuring that their ability to conduct their good works is not unduly hampered. In line with the foregoing, the Non-Profit Organisations Act, No. 7 of 2019, provides for the registration of non-profit organisations, the establishment and maintenance of a register of non-profit organisations, the obligations of non-profit organisations and for related matters³.

Ensure cooperation and intelligence sharing.

Part VI and VII of the ATA addresses "information sharing extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters" as well as "disclosure and sharing information." Pursuant to the foregoing, competent authorities in Trinidad and Tobago can share information domestically as well as with our regional and international counterparts to strengthen relationships with current partners and foster and develop new partnerships. In addition to the ATA, various other pieces of legislation

³ The country's policy and strategy for protecting NPOs from terrorism financing abuse is articulated in the TTNPS.

such as the POCA provides for the establishment of Committees that further domestic cooperation and coordination, which work in tandem with task forces, memoranda of understanding, standard operating procedures and other policies and procedures developed internally by competent authorities or as part of our national framework.

Trinidad and Tobago will improve the Counterterrorism network in the areas of surveillance and intelligence gathering. The GORTT will also partner with the relevant private stakeholders to develop internet policies which will aid in the monitoring and investigation of websites that incite hatred and violent extremism to enable a more comprehensive understanding of the activities that encourage violent extremism.

Enhance counterterrorism operational response capabilities.

The Commission of Enquiry appointed in 2010 to enquire into the events surrounding the attempted coup d'état of 27th July 1990 recommended, in its report completed in March 2014, that the entire national security architecture be re-visited. Consequently, the GORTT will enhance its counterterrorism operational response capability within the national security architecture by strengthening its counterterrorism operational capability machinery to focus on:

- Maximizing domain awareness of terrorist activities.
- Disrupting and preventing acts of terrorism and the movement of terrorists; and
- Initiating a direct-action response capability to curtail an imminent or existing terrorist threat.

Trinidad and Tobago's counterterrorism machinery will gather information on persons of interest and incorporate the work of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to disrupt and prevent terrorism. To effectively accomplish this aim, the

GORTT is cognisant that there must be maximum domain awareness pertaining to terrorism and terrorists, current trends and what future trends may look like. Understanding and being aware of the threat will prepare the relevant stakeholders (policy makers, operational heads, and the public) for the appropriate action and response.

Leveraging Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies for Counterterrorism Resilience:

In an increasingly interconnected world, Trinidad and Tobago recognizes that robust cybersecurity is not merely an economic imperative, but a fundamental pillar of national security, particularly in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism. GORTT is proactively fortifying its critical infrastructure—spanning energy, public utilities, finance, telecommunications, and transportation—against the evolving cyber threats posed by state and non-state actors, including terrorist organizations.

To enhance our counterterrorism capabilities, we are strategically integrating innovative technologies. This includes deploying artificial intelligence-driven cyber threat intelligence to detect and pre-empt malicious activities, establishing advanced monitoring and early warning systems to identify anomalous network behaviour indicative of terrorist planning and enhancing cyber incident response capabilities to ensure cyber resilience. These measures strengthen our ability to detect, disrupt, and respond to cyber-enabled terrorist attacks and the use of the internet for radicalization and recruitment.

Furthermore, we are committed to building resilient systems that can withstand and recover from cyberattacks, ensuring the continuity of essential services and protecting the public from cascading failures. Continuous innovation, coupled with strategic partnerships with local, regional, and international organizations, is essential to maintaining our technological edge. This collaborative approach enhances information sharing, improves our understanding of emerging threats, and ensures that Trinidad and Tobago remains a regional leader in cybersecurity, safeguarding our digital infrastructure and protecting our citizens from the evolving threats of terrorism.

- Establishment of Joint Cyber Operations Committee (JCOC)

- Enhancement of National Threat Monitoring Platform
- Facilitation of cross sector cyber threat briefings
- Establishment of information sharing and analysis centers (ISAC)

Response

Response involves maintaining specialized rapid-response teams trained to manage terrorist incidents, ensuring coordinated emergency services, and implementing clear crisis communication channels to keep the public informed. These measures are designed to minimize the impact of any potential attack and support swift recovery. The Crisis Management and Counterterrorism

Operations Response Plan⁴ (CTOP) outlines the arrangements, governance and operational responsibilities of the GORTT and its agencies engaged in counterterrorism.

The CTOP sets the framework for the response to, investigation of and recovery from terrorist acts and the preparations to support events. It is underpinned by the strategic objectives of the National CT Strategy and recognizes that activities will be interconnected and will often occur concurrently.

The CTOP sits below and complements the National CT Strategy and is supported by agency specific tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and operational guidance.

Recovery

In the event of an act of terrorism against Trinidad and Tobago, and/or its interests, the GORTT and its citizens will be prepared to respond to and recover from the physical, psychological, and social effects of such an occurrence. This objective aims to ensure that the impact of terrorist incidents are effectively managed and affected individuals and communities are supported. It will also ensure services, facilities and living conditions are restored in the shortest possible time, and a 'new normal' established.

Key activities

- Improve response and recovery capability of critical and support services.
- Restore and resume to surpass pre-disaster levels.

- Consistently reassess the risk of terrorism.
- Enhance resilience among all stakeholder groups.
- Institute de-radicalization programmes.
- Use best practices to develop approaches to aid victims of terrorism; and
- Continued engagement with international partners through already established channels, for example with OAS/CICTE.

Improve response and recovery capability of critical and support services.

Effective amalgamation and coordination of resources are essential for a successful response and recovery effort to a terrorist attack. Such coordination would include:

- The pre-determination of roles and responsibilities
- The prepositioning of resources
- The pre-establishment of management infrastructure and
- Support by adequate capacities and expert competencies.

To this end, there will be continuous testing and enhancement of response and recovery systems associated with the maintenance of essential and auxiliary services. National entities tasked with response and recovery operations will ensure that national and international efforts and best practice are synchronised for crisis management and consequence management.

Additionally, comprehensive, and integrated policies, plans⁵, programmes, projects, and

⁴ The Crisis Management and Counterterrorism Operations Response Plan is a restricted publication for official use only.

⁵

The policies, procedures and response plans are developed by the ODPM and articulated in the following:

1. Critical Infrastructure Protection Policy Framework (2010)
2. National Response Framework (NRF, 2010)
3. Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy Framework

procedures will be continuously developed and laws revised to bolster the national response and recovery capability.

Restore and resume to surpass pre-disaster levels.

Response and recovery activities will be undertaken with the intent of implementing prioritised actions, to stabilise strategic, operational, and tactical processes and support functions, following a terrorist attack. These actions will be executed via processes and procedures with intent to establish a 'new normal.' In congruence to the 'Build Back Better' principle, this attained state will be consistently reliable, as it would be continuously reviewed, to ensure that a false sense of peace, security and stability is not re-instated.

Consistently reassess the risk of terrorism

The identification of risk factors is fundamental to the creation of valid and reliable strategies to address existing and future risk. To this end, risk factors shall be continually reassessed and active consideration given to the implementation of effective prevention and mitigation measures.

Response and recovery rely on strategic, operational, and tactical advisory processes, as well as impact assessments that inform on apparent and emerging loss. Such assessments will serve as a measure of the degree of success of a terrorist attack. Whilst pre-incident efforts would have focused on addressing known risk factors, a successful terrorist attack reveals areas of exposure – unknown or overlooked.

Enhance resilience among all stakeholder groups.

The complex nature of a terrorist attack requires state agencies to actively engage and consistently collaborate with affected individuals, groups, communities, and businesses to respond to the impact, as well as

re-establish essential services, restore public confidence and community well-being. Thus, effective response and recovery operations rely heavily on a multi-stakeholder approach. Such collaboration will continuously aim to:

- Decrease stakeholder vulnerability and exposure to a terrorist incident, and
- Increase stakeholder resilience,
- Lessen the degree of strain that may be placed on response and recovery systems.

Institute de-radicalization programmes.

The GORTT is committed to addressing and reversing the process of radicalization of FTFs and their families who return to Trinidad and Tobago from conflict countries. In this regard, key focus will be given to the conduct of targeted research on this group and the implementation of innovative social campaigns and initiatives geared toward re-building national allegiance and support of said individuals to national counterterrorism efforts. To this end, the GORTT will deepen partnerships with key non-governmental, faith-based, and community-based organisations to harness their extensive social networks, inherent dynamism, innovation, and energies to counter the terrorist ideologies. Priority focus will be given to strengthening programmes aimed at addressing perceived economic and social inequalities, employment creation and overall rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalised persons into society. The state will create avenues for them to reintegrate into society.

Some countries focus on jihadist-inspired radicalization whilst others incorporate broader mandates to include other forms of extremism, such as far left and far right organisations. To ensure clarity, the Counterterrorism Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago utilises a broad definition of the term radicalization:

4. National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) SOPs

5. National Crisis Communications Plan

“Radicalization is the process by which an individual or a group comes to adopt increasingly radical views in opposition to a political, social, or religious status quo. The ideas of society at large shape the outcomes of radicalization. Radicalization can result in both violent and nonviolent action – academic literature focuses on radicalization into violent extremism (RVE) or radicalisation leading to acts of terrorism⁶..”

The GORTT also acknowledges that radical views are not always the precursor for violence or terrorist acts. Consideration must be given to the culture, traditions, history, and norms of the society as well as the laws of the state when seeking to establish de-radicalization programmes and other social initiatives.

Use best practices to develop approaches to aid victims of terrorism.

Recently there has been a global thrust toward acknowledging the rights and supporting victims of terrorism. Persons who commit terrorist acts, by virtue of their chosen method are already under the media spotlight. As such, the GORTT has recognised and acknowledged that there must be mobilisation to ensure that victims are not condemned to becoming statistics but are given a face and a voice. The State also intends to protect the dignity of victims, defend their legal rights, provide medical and psycho-social support, financial assistance and stand in solidarity with them. Mechanisms by which these will be achieved include:

The provision of a network of support comprising Government officials, subject

matter experts, service providers and civil society.

Such a network may take the form of a virtual information hub where the victims and supporters can access information and resources. This forum may also serve as a public awareness tool to highlight the injustices perpetrated upon victims.

The provision of easily accessible health services to provide short, medium- and long-term comprehensive support to victims.

GORTT intends to establish relationships via Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) with health professionals and civil society to aid victims. Mechanisms will be established to provide information, psychological and physical treatment and support. Such an initiative would also require additional training for the professionals who will be tasked with working with the victims of terrorism.

Enabling Priorities

Enabling priorities relate to institutional strengthening, capacity building, and public-private partnerships which facilitate the successful implementation of the five (5) Strategic Objectives of this Strategy: Protection, Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. They are key supporting elements that are essential to the fulfilment of the objectives and the aim of the Strategy. These enabling priorities specifically pertain to:

- The building of capacity and capability through the acquisition and optimal use of resources and training of personnel
- The enhancing of legislative and regulatory frameworks to effectively bolster the capability of the country's national institutions to combat terrorism.

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https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/20080500_cscp_report_vries.pdf

- Public-Private Partnerships: Collaboration with the oil and gas industry, tourism sector, and civil society to enhance resilience.

Capacity and Capability Building

For Trinidad and Tobago, increasing resilience requires building capacity. As such, the GORTT will continue to improve its capabilities for addressing the terrorist threat. The various strata of the country's efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, disrupt, and prepare for terrorist acts require the adequate provision of resources. In this regard, the country has been steadily upgrading technology, assets and equipment and recruiting and re-training its human resources. Considerable progress has been made in the last few years resulting in the establishment of:

- National Inter-Agency Council (NIAC)
- National Operations Fusion Centre (NOFC) and National Intelligence Fusion Centre (NIFC): entities established for joint operations and intelligence coordination.
- The National Security Training Academy (NSTA) caters to the needs of law enforcement, security and intelligence and augments agency specific training.
- The Cyber and Social Media Unit (CSMU) of the TTPS supports investigators and is an intelligence-gathering arm. The CSMU specializes in probing crimes occurring online or facilitated through digital devices. Their focus lies in addressing and investigating cyber-related offenses effectively.
- Trinidad and Tobago Cyber-Security Incident Response Team (TT-CSIRT) is the national Cyber Security Incident Response Team for Trinidad and Tobago. TT-CSIRT is responsible for defending the national interest against cyber threats which can affect

critical information infrastructure and critical national infrastructure. It acts as Trinidad and Tobago's focal point for matters related to cybersecurity at the national, regional and international levels. The unit specializes in cyber incident response, cyber threat intelligence and proactive risk exposure management.

- The Financial Investigations Branch (FIB): to investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing cases
- Police Rapid Response Unit: for a more timely and effective response to citizens' needs; and
- Joint Cyber Operations Committee (JCOC)

The Intelligence Community also has been collaborating and developing policies for joint operations, sharing information with a view to maximising resources and minimising risks.

Additionally, the GORTT recognises that it must partner with the private sector in addressing terrorism since some of the infrastructure and the systems that are at risk are owned by the private sector. Such engagement has already begun with the establishment of, for example, the Energy Sector Security Initiative (ESSI) which aims to improve security and address the threat factors, including that of terrorism, to the Energy Sector.

International Cooperation

Trinidad and Tobago is also obligated to comply with the various UN and other international instruments that address Counterterrorism. Consultation with the United Nations (UN), Organization of American States (OAS) and other bilateral and international partners on the issue of terrorism will continue through already established channels.

The National Director for Counterterrorism will have responsibility for monitoring and reporting on national efforts to combat terrorism and furthering cooperation initiatives on the issue between Trinidad and

Tobago and the international community, including the United Nations Counterterrorism Centre (UNCCT).

This activity therefore also seeks to improve Trinidad and Tobago's overall response mechanism, at the against terrorism through strategic collaboration and cooperation with international partners and subject matter experts.

Undertake a holistic needs assessment for increasing and updating physical capacities and capabilities bearing in mind, future threats and risks and the diverse manifestations of terrorism.

Capacity building must be undertaken in a holistic manner, rather than in silos. These Objectives represent the key priorities for investment. A needs assessment, based upon these priorities and country threat and risk assessments, is the obvious forerunner to the acquisition of resources for capacity building. There is a need to consider, among other things, the capacity required to provide medicine, supportive care at facilities and emergency distribution and the specialist expertise in CBRNE in the event of a terrorist attack, as well as the necessary tools to track and monitor the terrorists. Consideration would also be given to the capacity required for border security through the acquisition of advanced air and sea assets enabling greater domain awareness. Moreover, the capacity required for developing, supporting, and executing social programmes and public awareness campaigns in countering the narrative is of equal importance. Undertaking a needs assessment will encourage more judicious review of the country's capacity requirements as a whole and identify interdependencies, interrelationships, and complementarities. In so doing, overlaps and duplication of resource requests could be resolved, bearing in mind the need for some redundancy, and unforeseen gaps in capacity revealed.

Provide public funding and assess the value of investment into counterterrorism efforts.

Dedicated public funding is essential for building resilience to address terrorism issues. Providing value for money is equally important. The country will not only observe proper accountability and transparency in procurement processes but also continuously assess the returns on investment in counterterrorism initiatives based on specific indicators. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) will work with the MOD and relevant Ministries to develop these indicators. Further, the MoF will collaborate with other government ministries to ensure that core capacities are maintained, new needs are accommodated, and the efficiency of spending is observed. The GORTT will offer the private sector pertinent security advice and encourage investment in measures that would adequately protect operations. To capitalise on available grant funding and international assistance for technical and infrastructural support, the GORTT will strengthen its multi-lateral relationships.

Acquire the necessary resources and training to give effect to the objectives of the Counterterrorism Strategy

With the current deficiencies in some sectors, there is a level of urgency that is needed in acquiring resources. These include physical, human, and knowledge resources. To achieve the desired aim of the Strategy, it would be necessary to acquire physical assets such as equipment, technology, vessels, vehicles, buildings, related infrastructure, and other assets. Trinidad and Tobago however also needs to invest in its most valuable resource – the human resource. As such, the GORTT will also provide the required knowledge resources for training and retraining of personnel assigned to specialised fields. Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago will need to provide a secure designated area for terrorist offenders while increasing the capacity to prosecute and successfully convict persons. From a

knowledge-based perspective, the country will also have to consider international best practices to offer specialised adjudication and prosecutorial training to prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers in terrorist-related matters. Also, the introduction of a sophisticated biometric system that could identify suspect terrorists at ports of entry which is linked to regional and international agencies will aid in monitoring movement. The concomitant information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, competency training, personnel and multi-agency linkages for real-time information sharing will be required.

Formulate and create innovative management approaches, accompanying protocols and procedures related to the effective use and integration of national capacities for countering terrorism.

In keeping with the increase in capacities, advanced technology and evolving threat landscape, new management system approaches need to be formulated for the optimal use of resources. These approaches also need to consider interoperability across various divisions and agencies to facilitate quicker access to essential information for the government ministries which require it. Protocols and procedures therefore also need to be revised. Operating with the clear set of objectives such as those outlined in this Strategy is the starting point in defending the country from all forms of terrorism. Trinidad and Tobago will develop procedures for managing convicted terrorist offenders, terrorist cases and investigations and the delivery of counter radicalization programmes. Additionally, the development of management approaches geared toward intelligence gathering and dissemination that balance the need to share with the need to protect; as well as protocols for inter-agency cooperation are necessary since communication needs to be enhanced to deal successfully with terrorism.

International Cooperation and Compliance

The nature of the threat of terrorism, and by extension, the nature of security in the 21st century, means that Trinidad and Tobago, like any other state, cannot act in isolation. While the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (MFCA) is the lead Ministry in the pursuance of foreign policy initiatives, the involvement and support of other Government Ministries and Agencies are also required. The GORTT will actively pursue the development and strengthening of international partnerships, bilaterally and multilaterally. The results of such efforts would be the bolstering of the capacity of national institutions to protect and prevent acts of terrorism, pursue terrorists, and respond and recover in the event of an incident.

Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks: Enhancements to effectively bolster the capability of the country's national institutions to combat terrorism.

The evolving and complex phenomenon of terrorism and terrorist financing requires ongoing review of existing legislation to ensure compliance with international standards and satisfy domestic security needs. The existing suite of legislation provides for the detection, prevention, prosecution, conviction of and imposition of sanctions for terrorist acts.

Establish a multi-stakeholder committee for counterterrorism legislation.

To ensure a robust legislative framework, there must be continuous review, amendment, and passage of legislation. A multi-stakeholder committee for addressing weaknesses or gaps in counterterrorism legislation or relevant supporting legislation was established via the IMCCT.

The NAMLC and its constituent competent authorities are mandated to, inter alia, develop and implement measures to combat the financing of terrorism, including through the identification, investigation and prosecution of

TF, together with the identification, freezing, seizing and forfeiture of terrorist property. CFT is a subset of the national CT strategy and as such the interlinking of membership between the IMCCT and the NAMLC allows for cooperation and coordination to ensure the harmonisation of national CFT policies, strategies and activities with this broader national CT strategy. This includes ensuring that the results of investigations, prosecutions and conviction of TF are considered and used in the formulation of this national CT strategy. This relationship also provides a platform for sharing information and intelligence obtained in TF investigations, prosecutions and convictions to support national CT purposes and activities as guided by this national CT strategy.

The NAMLC established a Legal Working Group (LWG) in 2020 which is a standing working group, charged with the responsibility of advising on legal and policy matters falling within the remit of the NAMLC and advising on legislative and policy amendments required to strengthen the national AML/CFT/CPF framework in line with identified risk and in compliance with international standards.

Enact or amend legislation to effectively deal with all aspects of terrorism.

Trinidad and Tobago is in the process of enacting/amending legislation to further combat criminal/ terrorist-related activities. These include:

The Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) Chapter 12:07

The ATA, which was enacted in 2005, has undergone amendments on nine (9) occasions, to strengthen the legislative foundation for the country's framework for countering terrorism including terrorism financing. These amendments are driven by the focused ongoing work of competent authorities to monitor, evaluate and mitigate terrorism and terrorist financing risks; to remain abreast of evolving best practices; and to maintain compliance with international standards,

which themselves are continuously revised in response to prevailing and emerging threats and typologies. These amendments include:

- specific provisions to address risks posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs);
- a framework for declaration of geographical areas where terrorists or terrorist organizations are operating and to which travel of Trinidad and Tobago nationals is restricted; and
- significantly strengthening the regime for implementing targeted financial sanctions, cooperation and coordination with other countries for implementation of sanctions and proposing names to the United Nations Security Council for global designation.

National Policy and Procedures for Addressing Persons Entering/Returning from Conflict Zones (Returnee Policy)

- The National Policy on Returnees was approved in February 2022 and outlines the procedures and processes that are specific to the various categories of persons entering/returning from conflict zones.

The Returnee Bill 2025

- The Returnee Bill was drafted to provide a regulatory framework to facilitate the repatriation and rehabilitation of returnees. This bill does not cover those assessed to be FTFs, who are covered by the Anti-Terrorism Act.

National Anti-Money Laundering, Combatting Terrorism Financing, Countering Proliferation Financing Policy, and Strategy:

The TTNPS enables the mitigation of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) risks, pursuant to Trinidad and Tobago's identification, assessment and understanding of its risks. It sets out Trinidad and Tobago's overall AML/CFT/CPF policies, as well as the key elements of the strategies to be followed to ensure that the policy focus is effectively

maintained, and the desired objectives achieved. It describes the institutional arrangements to effectively implement the national AML/CFT/CPF framework, and key actions and activities to maintain and strengthen them. Further, the document provides guidance to the competent authorities (CA) as well as the FI, LBs and NPO sectors to ensure that their business practices and internal control mechanisms are aligned with national, sectoral, and institutional understanding of ML/TF/PF risks and promoting these policy objectives.

Implementation of Targeted Financial Sanctions related to Terrorism and Terrorist Financing (TFS-TF):

Trinidad and Tobago as a member of the CFATF and the United Nations, implements TFS-TF pursuant to the mandates of the FATF Standards (Recommendation 6 and Immediate Outcome 10) and various UNSCRs, inclusive of UNSCR 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001). The implementation of targeted financial sanctions includes the designation of individuals and entities as well as a prohibition and asset freeze to ensure the restriction of financial activities by those designated. These sanctions are designed to target specific entities and individuals believed to be involved in supporting or carrying out terrorist acts.

Trinidad and Tobago has established a robust regime for the implementation of TFS by the establishment of a multi-agency task force, the implementation of Section 22B of the ATA, strong cooperation, and coordination domestically, regionally, and internationally and as a result, has been rated compliant with FATF Recommendation 6. In line with the foregoing, Trinidad, and Tobago, has successfully designated all individuals and entities on the various UNSC Lists and has

several domestic designations pursuant to UNSCR 1373(2001).

Public-Private Partnership

Trinidad and Tobago boasts of a robust and increasingly technologically innovative and modernized private sector and a well-respected and active civil society. It is in the interest of the GORTT to engage in public-private partnerships (PPPs) to enhance the effectiveness of its counterterrorism strategy by fostering collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, leading to a more comprehensive and resilient approach to national security. GORTT intends therefore to secure the following through PPP:

- **Resource Sharing:** GORTT acknowledges that it will often face limitations in funding and manpower. By collaborating with private sector entities, GORTT can leverage additional resources, expertise, and technology. This can enhance surveillance, intelligence gathering, and overall operational effectiveness.
- **Innovation and Technology:** GORTT, through the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT), has approved a National Digital Transformation Strategy⁷ (NDTS) that intends to create a digital landscape that is secure and resilient, vibrant and dynamic. The private sector, particularly in fields like cybersecurity, data analytics, and surveillance technology, is often at the forefront of innovation. By partnering with the private sector, GORTT intends to employ and access cutting-edge tools and systems that improve GORTT ability to detect and respond to threats.

⁷ The country's policy and strategy for secure digital transformation has been articulated in the NDTS 2024-2027

- **Information Exchange:** Effective counterterrorism relies on timely and accurate information sharing. PPPs will facilitate communication between GORTT and private organizations, such as financial institutions and NPOs, which can provide critical data on suspicious activities or transactions.
- **Community Engagement:** An effective national counterterrorism strategy will involve community outreach and engagement. Private companies and civil society can help bridge the gap between GORTT and communities, promoting initiatives that build trust and resilience against radicalization.
- **Training and Capability Building:** Private organizations can offer specialized training for GORTT personnel, enhancing their skills in areas such as threat assessment, crisis management, and cybersecurity. This cross-pollination of knowledge strengthens the overall counterterrorism capacity.
- **Crisis Response and Recovery:** In the event of a terrorist incident, private organizations may be involved in recovery and response efforts. Partnerships can ensure that plans are in place for rapid response, business continuity, and the restoration of services, which is critical for community resilience.
- **Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management:** Many private sector entities must comply with various regulations regarding security and risk management. By partnering with GORTT, they can better understand and align with national security priorities, leading to more effective risk mitigation strategies.

- **Public Awareness and Education:** Collaborative campaigns between public entities and private organizations can raise awareness about terrorism and promote preventive measures within communities. This can help foster a culture of vigilance and encourage citizen involvement in counterterrorism and efforts aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE).

Implementation

Successful implementation of the objectives of the Counterterrorism Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago requires cooperation, coordination, and close partnerships between government agencies and the citizenry. To assess the effectiveness of the strategy, it will be regularly assessed with specific initiatives being subject to more in-depth evaluation. This evaluation will be supported by comprehensive research and horizon scanning both of which are critical to Trinidad and Tobago being abreast of novel or shifting threats and vulnerabilities. Coordination of the implementation of the Counterterrorism Strategy is the responsibility of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Counterterrorism (IMCCT) which will be a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency mechanism for coordinating all counterterrorism efforts, led by the Ministry of Defence.

Strategic Oversight

The National Security Council (NSC) will maintain strategic oversight of the Counterterrorism Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago and will receive and review reports on the progress of implementation from the IMCCT, consider risks and determine appropriate responses as well as allocations of resources, as required.

The Minister of National Security will be the lead minister for national counterterrorism efforts. Counterterrorism efforts will also involve the input of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are integral to the success of Trinidad and Tobago's National Counterterrorism Strategy, ensuring that initiatives are effective, accountable, and adaptable to evolving threats. Inter-Ministerial Committee for Counterterrorism (IMCCT) oversees the process, coordinating with government agencies, law enforcement, and private sector partners to assess performance and progress.

Real-time monitoring involves collecting intelligence from domestic and international sources, using advanced data analytics to identify trends and emerging risks. Performance indicators, such as the prevention of radicalization, incident response times, and infrastructure security levels, are required to be regularly assessed to measure the effectiveness of prevention, protection, and preparedness measures.

Quarterly and annual evaluations include independent audits and comprehensive reviews of all counterterrorism programs. These assessments will ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards, identify areas for improvement, and promote best practices. Stakeholder feedback from both the public and private sectors will be actively sought to ensure that counterterrorism measures align with community needs and uphold civil liberties.

Findings from monitoring and evaluation processes will be transparently reported to government leadership and the public to maintain trust and accountability. Continuous improvement is emphasized, with lessons

learned from assessments guiding policy adjustments and resource allocation. By maintaining a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework, Trinidad and Tobago will ensure that its counterterrorism strategy remains proactive, resilient, and capable of addressing both current and future security challenges.

The Counterterrorism Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago will be reviewed in five (5) years, or as required, to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago maintain currency in the ever evolving and shifting environment of terrorist's tactics. Such review shall be informed by inter alia data obtained through investigations, prosecutions and convictions of terrorism and terrorist financing.

This document follows the latest review of national counterterrorism strategies by the Inter-Ministerial Committee in keeping with its mandate, and outlines Trinidad and Tobago's overarching national counterterrorism strategy as adopted by Cabinet. In developing this strategy, account has been taken of all available information and intelligence obtained through TF investigations and the application of targeted financial sanctions for TF.

This Policy therefore provides clear and unambiguous direction to all national authorities on implementing the country's strategies for ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago maintains a strong and effective counterterrorism framework. This includes requiring competent authorities to ensure alignment of their sectoral and institutional policies, operational strategies and activities with this policy.

Conclusion

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's National Counterterrorism Strategy reflects its unwavering commitment to safeguarding its citizens, economy, and national interests. By addressing the root causes of terrorism, protecting critical infrastructure, and maintaining rapid-response capabilities, Trinidad and Tobago ensures resilience against evolving threats.

Collaborative partnerships with regional and international stakeholders, coupled with a robust combatting the financing of terrorism framework (which is a component of the country's broader integrated measures to counter illicit finance) and cybersecurity measures, reinforce national security. Continuous monitoring and evaluation ensure the strategy remains adaptive and effective.

Through vigilance, innovation, and collective action, Trinidad and Tobago aims to prevent terrorism while preserving its democratic values, fostering economic growth, and maintaining the openness and hospitality that define its national identity.