



PRESS RELEASE

Trinidad and Tobago Amerindian Community is Celebrated On International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 9 August 2014

DATE: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - As the world celebrates the International Day of Indigenous Peoples on August 9, Trinidad and Tobago can reflect on the contribution its first peoples have made to the culture of the country.

The Santa Rosa Festival organized by the Carib Community and the *Amerindian Heritage Week* in October offer the occasion to stop and ponder and pay tribute to the enormous contribution indigenous people have made to traditions and knowledge of this twin island republic.

The European Union joins the indigenous peoples around the world in celebrating their rich cultural heritage and continues to be a staunch supporter of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Indigenous peoples' rights, as defined in the UNDRIP, form an integral part of the EU's human rights policy.

The EU underlines the importance of the successful realisation of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) in September 2014.

As stated by the Statement by the Spokesperson to the High Representative/Vice President of the EU: "We continue our engagement in the discussions and we support the participation of indigenous peoples' delegates aiming to translate the UNDRIP into concrete action and changes on the ground. We also note the importance of the engagement of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda".

The EU raises the rights of indigenous peoples wherever relevant in contacts with third countries and regional organisations, as well as in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, the Organisation of American States and the African Union. It also gives financial support to civil society projects, to indigenous peoples' delegates at UN bodies and relevant activities of the International Labour Organisation. Under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) the EU will in 2014 finance up to €5 million of new projects that aim at promoting the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

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