



National Development Agenda for Trinidad and Tobago

**UNDP Workshop on Trinidad and Tobago
Country Strategy Action Plan 2012 – 2015**
Crowne Plaza, Port of Spain
August 2nd 2011

Ministry of Planning and the Economy

SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has developed a National Policy built on the premise of 'Prosperity for All'.

Within this context, seven interconnected pillars outline the sustainable framework that will propel the country's economic development.

SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT cont'd

Sustainable Development Framework

7
Pillars



National Policy

Prosperity for all is the commitment

SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT cont'd

- **People Centered Development** – focuses on improving our education system and maintaining a seamless link for continuous learning.
- **Poverty Eradication and Social Justice** – introduces strategies to reduce the income inequality that exists and provide a social safety net for the poor and vulnerable;
- **National And Personal Security** – centers on human security and the maintenance of law and order. Addressing the social conditions that serve as incubators for criminal activity and the reform of the prison and justice systems will be critical.
- **Information and Communication Technologies** – serves as the backbone which supports our educated population, maintains effective communication locally and globally and promotes timely information sharing and management.

SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT cont'd

- **A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy** – emphasizes the expansion of other productive sectors in the economy through the continued development of existing sectors and the establishment of new areas that span the creative, technological and manufacturing sectors.
- **Good Governance** – focuses on ensuring transparency, accountability participation and effective representation through institutional strengthening, enhancing democracy and strengthening execution and delivery capacity.
- **Foreign Policy** – maintains and develops bilateral and multilateral relations ensuring that our foreign policy supports our objectives for the achievement of sustainable development.

THE 7 PILLARS → POLICY SHIFTS

The initiatives outlined in each of these seven (7) pillars are designed to engineer a significant policy shift with positive consequences for the sustainable development of the country.

This shift will be evident in terms of the following:

- The implementation of all development initiatives in the context of a sustainable land use and physical planning framework.
- Greater emphasis on people-centred development, particularly through efforts to increase the levels of participation in education (particularly higher education) coupled with the creation of jobs on a sustainable basis. These efforts will be complemented by a poverty reduction strategy and integrated social welfare support.

THE 7 PILLARS → POLICY SHIFTS

- A significant reduction in crime and improvements in personal security and the justice system
- Rejuvenation of the agriculture sector to achieve food security with the emphasis on water resources management, improving productivity and enhancing sustainable development practices
- Sustainable diversification of the economy with the focus being on alternative energy and new knowledge and creative industries
- Greater citizen participation and more meaningful local government
- More responsible and responsive Government with greater emphasis on transparency and accountability

NEW APPROACH TO POLICY PLANNING

- Achieving 'Prosperity for All' requires a change in approach to policy planning
- The emphasis is not on broad based development initiatives but on the design of policy actions that meet the needs of the individual throughout his/her life cycle, the family/household, the community and the region

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

**RANKING OF ISSUES
BASED ON RECENT POLLS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TODAY**

Crime/Law and Order/Vandalism	93%
Inflation/Prices – especially food prices	34%
Health/Hospitals	34%
Unemployment/Jobs	32%
Poverty/Inequality	16%
Low pay/wages	16%
Economy	13%
Housing	12%
Roads	11%
Education/Schools	9%

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Government's Priorities for the Medium term have been identified based on the following imperatives:
 - Building a new and diversified economy driven by knowledge and innovation
 - Building human capital and
 - Addressing basic needs of citizens and areas of pressing national concern

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- The five (5) priorities for the medium-term are:
 - Law and Order and Crime Reduction
 - Food Security
 - Health and Hospitals
 - Job Creation and Economic Transformation
 - Human Capital Development

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Law and Order and Crime Reduction are essential to improve the confidence level in the economy and increase investment and economic activity.
- Key Initiatives:
 - Adoption of a 21st Century Transformation Service Delivery Model that ensures the Police Service is responsive and proactive and includes a blend of intelligence led and community policing
 - Address critical issues in the Criminal Justice System as they relate to prevention, detection, prosecution, detention, rehabilitation and reintegration
 - Use of technology as a Crime Fighting Tool and in training and development and information management
 - Establishment of a special Criminal Court to treat with drugs, arms, kidnapping and narcotic offences
 - Review of the Prison System
 - Reduction of the backlog and the disposal rates of cases in the Court System

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Health and Hospitals - Quality and accessible health care is a basic necessity and pivotal to the social and economic development of the country given that there is an inextricable link between the health of the population and productivity.
- Key Initiatives:
 - Recruitment of Professional Staff
 - Construction and Refurbishment of Health Care Facilities across the country
 - Exploring specialised niches for medical care (eg; oncology, neurosurgery)
 - Introduction of Integrated Health Information Management Systems
 - Promotion of a Healthy Lifestyle through a preventive approach/a strategy to deal with non-communicable diseases

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Food Security is creating a state where all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
- Policy mandates :
 - Reducing the food import bill (increasing local food production)
 - Reducing inflation primarily driven by food prices
 - Creating sustainable , long term, productive employment (upgrading infrastructure &removal of constraints to farmers)
 - Contributing to the diversification of the economy
 - Increasing the country's food security

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Economic Transformation- diversification of the domestic economy depends on finding sector niches that offer the country real opportunities to create value and develop businesses that have strong long term growth prospects and create jobs.
- In the traditional sectors such as Agriculture, Tourism and Manufacturing we must find niche areas and develop new products and services as well as new processes and marketing networks through the use of local knowledge, talent and resources.
- The Small and Micro-Enterprise (SME) sector has the ability to be a major source of job creation and efforts must be place towards the expansion of this sector.
- The Creative Industry is a sector that is vital to economic transformation, not only of its linkage to defining our tourism product but it has the ability to be a significant foreign exchange earner for the country.

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Essential to achieving Economic Transformation are :
 - The formulation of the National Innovation Policy and the development of the National Innovation System
 - Increased Private Sector investment in Research and Development
 - The formulation and implementation of an Investment Policy, a Services Strategy and an Export Strategy with attraction of investment in each area to support diversification

Productivity Growth, Competitiveness and Innovation are at the core of the new Economic Strategy

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Human Capital Development entails not only making strategic investments in the education and health sectors but also in the areas of Poverty Reduction and Human Resource Development.
- Poverty Reduction efforts are based on a two fold approach:
 - Strategy 1: empowerment of the poor through education and training as well as the creation of new income earning opportunities;
 - Strategy 2: providing an effective social safety net for the most vulnerable to meet their immediate basic needs.
 - Wealth creation is critical for poverty reduction and can be achieved through the development of entrepreneurial initiatives, business creation and investment

PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

- Human Resource Development is one of the keys of Global Competiveness; i.e. the development of an innovative, creative people willing to assume risk in creating and taking advantage of opportunities for wealth creation.
- Key Initiatives:
 - Establishment of a Labour Market Information System
 - Conduct of a Labour Market Information Study
 - Review of the GATE Programme has been initiated with a view to rationalizing public expenditure and developing a strategy for expanding the programme to include Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY

- Develop a National Policy Framework in two phases:

2011 - 2014

2014 – 2017

- Identify a national agenda of priorities and facilitate linkages with local government priorities and community initiatives for the 2011-2012 FY
- Align Ministerial Agendas for high impact with the framework of a sustainable development strategy
- Strengthen the national data base and information management system to support evidence-based policy making and decision support

SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY

- Develop a national land use policy to support a sustainable development agenda
- Facilitate and fuel an innovation-driven economy by specific initiatives and collaborative action with the private sector
- Strengthen project management capability to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and high performance in the execution of the PSIP
- Reform Town and Country Planning

UNDP COOPERATION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The UNDP as a development partner with Trinidad and Tobago has provided invaluable assistance over the years and made significant contributions in the areas of:

- National Development Policy
- Poverty alleviation and Sustainable Human Development
- Environment
- Health - HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening Development and Planning Capacity
- Good Governance
- Establishment of National Institutions (CARIRI, IMA, EMA)

UNDP COOPERATION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The assistance is provided through:

- Services of advisory expert/consultants
- Services of operational experts
- Services of UN Volunteers
- Equipment and Supplies
- Seminars, Training Programmes etc.

UNDP COOPERATION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- In 2004, as a high middle income country, Trinidad and Tobago graduated to Net Contributing Country status, and as a result grant funding is no longer available.
- All costs for delivery of technical assistance to Trinidad and Tobago have to be borne by the Government – funding for projects and programmes would be accommodated under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP)

PRIORITIES FOR PSIP

- Priorities for the PSIP are based on the following:
- Alignment with the 7 pillars of development and national priorities
- Impact of projects on the quality of life of individuals and communities
- Impact on job creation

Thank You

