

Closing remarks by The Hon Penelope Beckles-Robinson

I thank the organisers of this meeting, and you, the participants, for the active contributions and the rich dialogue initiated today.

I again express my profound honour, having assumed the role of Chair of the CDCC in the year that we celebrate its **thirtieth (30th)** session. I undertake the chairmanship of this regional committee standing on the shoulders of our first Prime Minister, the late Hon. Dr. Eric Williams along with the late Fidel Castro, former President of Cuba, who jointly conceived of and advocated for the creation of a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to serve the specific needs of our subregion. This significant milestone for Trinidad and Tobago is a testament to our strong commitment to fostering collaboration, dialogue, and progress among our member nations.

The CDCC was established not only to promote and strengthen economic and social cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean, but also to promote cooperation between them and the countries of the wider Latin American region. It is on this premise that Trinidad and Tobago will continue the work over the next two (2) years.

Therefore, it is in this spirit that I urge our continuous and concentrated efforts to realise the development aspirations of this subregion, which we

call home. Let us also work together to strengthen our regional engagement to build back better so that we can successfully address the challenges of our era. United we stand, now let us work towards our common goals.

Thank you all for your participation and for joining us in sweet Trinidad and Tobago.

I now declare the **thirtieth (30th)** session of the CDCC officially closed.