

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE Levels 20-21, Tower D, International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain Republic of Trinidad and Tobago TEL: 627-1163

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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) HIV Sustainability Planning Meeting

Port-of-Spain: The Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs and NACC Secretariat) in collaboration with USAID Eastern and Southern Caribbean Office under the Health Finance and Governance Project (HFG) hosted a HIV Sustainability Meeting from Wednesday 25th – Thursday 26th July, 2018, at the Parliament's Arnold Thomasos Room. The meeting was convened to plan for financing and monitoring of a sustainable, effective, and efficient HIV response.

In 2015, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago committed to the new World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines to provide treatment for all persons infected with HIV regardless of the stage of disease as part of the national goals to ENDSAIDS in Trinidad and Tobago by 2030. The attainment of this goal requires increased cross sectoral investment to protect the gains seen in the past thirty-five years, as well as, further investment in strategies and programmes around ending aids by 2030.

This meeting comes at a time where the country and the region are seeing diminished investments in the HIV/AIDS response by some external funders. It is therefore critical for the country to place greater emphasis on identifying the gaps to be filled in order to sustain an expanded HIV and AIDS response as we move to 2030.

The Health Financing and Governance Programme activities were designed to support the sustainability of the response, specifically by strengthened the governance mechanisms at the country and regional levels, domestic resource mobilization, the analysis and use of financial data for decision making, as well as by identifying opportunities to increased efficiency. In offering support, the Programme assisted the NACC in its review of existing documents relevant to the



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development of the sustainability plan and identified challenges and opportunities in the HIV response.

The National AIDS Coordinating Committee is committed to developing a Strategic plan that ensures the sustainability of all programmes which benefits ALL people living with HIV and AIDS, as well as all other populations affected or at risk. The Committee remains steadfast to its Vision 2030 goal to #EndAIDSBy2030TT.

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For further information contact: The Corporate Communications Unit Tel: 627-1163 ext. 2040-2043 or e-mail: <u>naccsectt@gmail.com</u>