



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

Sponsor Remarks

UTT Symposium:

Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Caribbean Region

- His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona - President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Justices of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;
- Honourable Ministers and Ambassadors;
- Directors and Executives of National, Regional and International Maritime Organizations;
- Members of the Media;
- Representatives of Symposium Sponsors;
- Leaders, Staff and Students of the University of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Other distinguished guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

My name is Danford Mapp and I am the Manager of Business and Technical Support at the National Energy Corporation.

On behalf of the NGC Group of Companies, I welcome the decision to host this important and timely symposium on Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Caribbean Region. Ocean governance treats with managing and using the world's oceans, seas and its marine resources in ways that keep them healthy, productive, safe, secure and resilient.

On the surface, this symposium addresses ocean governance, however at its core is the issue of sustainability, which is to ensure that all our

activities in pursuit of development today, do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own socio-economic needs from the oceans and seas.

Indeed, in as much as the oceans, seas and marine resources are being increasingly degraded by human activities, reducing their ability to provide crucial ecosystem services, the more threatened our lives and our futures become. Important classes of threats to the ocean include climate change, marine pollution, unsustainable extraction of marine resources and physical alteration and destruction of marine and coastal habitats and landscapes.

The ocean's crucial ecosystems are therefore indispensable to our existence and sustainability. Among its many roles, it serves as a source of food and habitats, a thoroughfare for ships, a regulator of climate and a repository of energy resources. Oceans contribute to human development and poverty eradication. Destruction of the ocean's ecosystem would severely jeopardize the future of humanity and the planet itself, and it is therefore crucial that we address ocean governance with great urgency. We all need to demonstrate responsible care toward our oceans.

In the Caribbean Region, maritime life plays a significant role in the economies of island-states and the well-being of its citizens. This is no less true in Trinidad and Tobago. In NGC's case, a group of companies engaged in the natural gas business, virtually all of its natural gas supply is produced from offshore fields. The NGC Group is therefore mindful of

its own role and responsibility in safeguarding the ocean and marine interests.

The new reality of the local energy sector is the emergence of cross-border natural gas fields as critical areas for future development. Thus, Ocean Governance will be even more pertinent in the future.

Through our subsidiary National Energy, we manage piers at Port Point Lisas, as well as ports at Brighton and Galeota, with safety and zero environmental impact as primary operational goals. As our Group eyes international expansion and the transformation of our ports into regional logistics hubs, we anticipate increased marine traffic and a concurrent need for enhanced management and protection of our territorial waters. We therefore stand willing to partner with the relevant agencies to ensure that the right policies and mechanisms are implemented to police and protect the marine acreage that surrounds our country.

According to a 2016 European Commission finding, an estimated 60% of the oceans are outside the borders of national jurisdiction. This implies a shared international responsibility. As we join you over the next two days in intense discussions about ocean governance, generating innovative ideas for working together as a region for the benefit of all our peoples and future generations, the NGC Group of Companies stands resolute in its commitment to sustainable growth and development while recognizing the tremendous responsibility that we all share to protect this key resource that fuels our prosperity.

NGC commends the University of Trinidad and Tobago for facilitating this symposium, and we hope that it will incite collective action toward strengthening maritime governance in the Caribbean Basin.

I thank you and wish you a successful symposium.