



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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MEDIA RELEASE

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE ARTS HOSTS WORKSHOP & CON-
SULTATION ON UNESCO 2005 CONVENTION**

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts continues to engage in initiatives to protect and promote cultural diversity, and to create conditions for cultures to flourish and interact. This includes being a signatory to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The core function of the Convention is to provide "a new framework for informed, transparent and participatory systems of governance for creativity and culture". Every four years, signatories of the Convention commit to submitting periodic reports on the policies and measures they have adopted, as well as the challenges encountered in implementing the Convention. To this end, a multi-stakeholder National Team has been appointed to receive training and technical support on preparing the Quadrennial Periodic Report (QPR) for the 2005 Convention. This year's report is due by 30th June 2023.

The Ministry will therefore be hosting a 4-day Capacity Building Workshop from 24th to 27th April, 2023 at the 9th Floor Conference Room, Tower C, International Waterfront Centre, and the Helen May Johnstone Room, Queen's Hall. This workshop is geared towards readying the National Team for the preparation of the periodic report, along with the action plan and timetable for its preparation. The workshop will be facilitated by International Expert, Dr Deborah Hickling Gordon (UWI, Jamaica); and National Expert, Dr Suzanne Burke (UWI, Trinidad and Tobago); and will focus on the objectives and guiding principles of the 2005 Convention, the structure and objectives of the QPR, data and information collection, and participatory drafting processes.

This training initiative will culminate in a Multi-Stakeholder Consultation, hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts in collaboration with UNESCO, on Friday 28th April, 2023. The consultation will take place at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA), and will be open to specially invited Government officials and Civil Society Organi-

sations (CSOs). Its focus will be to increase their training and awareness on the guiding principles and objectives of the 2005 Convention, participatory policy monitoring and preparation of periodic reports.

The Ministry anticipates the successful completion of Trinidad and Tobago's 2023 QPR by its submission deadline, 30th June 2023. Throughout May to June 2023, stakeholders will be given further opportunities to be trained and to contribute to the process of drafting this submission. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts is committed to its role in facilitating information sharing, capacity building and transparency in this initiative, and looks forward to long lasting effects of 2005 Convention on Trinidad and Tobago's culture.

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