

## **SPEECH FOR UNDOC WORKSHOP**

**Mr. Justice Melville Baird**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**

I consider it a transcendent honour to stand here this morning to deliver the opening address to what I am confident would be a very productive and illuminating workshop.

I bid Ms. Cristina Ritter, Legal Expert UNODC, a fervent welcome to our country and I thank her sincerely for the extraordinary display of commitment in travelling so many miles to be with us here today and to address us for the entire day on a wide range of very germane topics. We look forward in anticipation and expectation to her guiding us through this very tight and crowded schedule as we endeavour to grasp the objectives of the various sessions.

There is one objective however on which I wish to briefly touch by way of clarification as it directly impacts the Integrity Commission.

On the subject “taking stock of previous and ongoing anti-corruption measures in Trinidad and Tobago” the session objective is; ‘to assess the progress made and the challenges to address corruption in Trinidad and Tobago’. And the speaker, who would be a representative of the Integrity Commission, would be required to present the national anti-corruption priorities identified. The Integrity Commission however would be unable to present national anti-corruption priorities. There is no mechanism in place for such an exercise to be performed by the Integrity Commission. The Integrity Commission must perforce be restricted to anti-corruption methods, the Integrity Commission itself has taken and none other.

I will say no more but leave it to the speaker, the Director of Investigations, Mr. Richard Frederick to elaborate.

I now take great pleasure in handing over to Ms. Ritter as she takes us through the first topic on the agenda: “Overview of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and its Implementation Review Mechanism”.