



MEDIA RELEASE

November 11, 2025

Dear Editor/ Head of Department

Appointment of the UNESCO Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was presented with their letters of appointment on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at the Ministry of Education (MOE), Education Towers, Port of Spain.

During the appointment ceremony, Dr. the Honourable Michael Dowlath, Minister of Education, underscored the importance of UNESCO's mission and the Commission's role in advancing national development through education, science, culture and communication. Minister Dowlath stated, *"The work of the National Commission for UNESCO is pivotal to our ongoing pursuit of excellence and equity in education and sustainable development. Through our collaboration with UNESCO, we reaffirm Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to fostering innovation, cultural preservation, and global citizenship. I have every confidence that this new Board will continue to uphold these values with dedication and vision."*

Trinidad and Tobago became a member of UNESCO in 1962, and in 1970, Cabinet approved the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO to advance and coordinate the Organization's work within the country. The Commission serves as the primary liaison between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and UNESCO, facilitating the effective implementation of UNESCO's programmes and initiatives at the national level and ensuring alignment with the country's development priorities.

The newly appointed Board of Commissioners will serve for a period of three (3) years. The Commissioners are:

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|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| • Mr. Brendon Butts | — | Chairman |
| • Dr. Vashti Singh | — | Deputy Chairman |
| • Mr. Colin Gopaul | — | Commissioner |
| • Ms. Savitri Bahal | — | Commissioner |
| • Mr. Dave Singh | — | Commissioner |
| • Ms. Andrea Charles | — | Commissioner |
| • Mr. Laurence Jagessar | — | Commissioner |
| • Mr. Maldeo Maharaj | — | Commissioner |
| • Ms. Deborah Hutchinson | — | Commissioner |
| • Ms. Debra Lalloo | — | ex officio |

UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations, is responsible for promoting peace, social justice, human rights and international security through international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. Headquartered in Paris, France, the organisation operates through more than fifty field offices worldwide.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to continued collaboration with National and International Partners to advance quality education, economic growth and institutional strengthening.

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