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MEDIA RELEASE

New U.S. Tariffs Threaten Regional Trade- TT Chamber Calls for Deepened Caribbean Integration

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (TT Chamber) expresses deep concern over the Executive Order issued by the White House on July 31, 2025, which outlines an increase in the reciprocal tariff rates from 10% to 15% on a range of imports, including goods from Trinidad and Tobago. These new measures are scheduled to take effect this week, August 7th.

This latest action represents a significant departure from the long-standing principles of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) which is a U.S. policy framework designed to promote economic development and export-led growth in the Caribbean through preferential market access. Trinidad and Tobago, as a key beneficiary under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), has long relied on stable, preferential trade with the United States to bolster its manufacturing and export capacity.

The TT Chamber urges the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, along with CARICOM counterparts, to urgently engage U.S. counterparts to seek clarity and advocate for a review of the decision. This moment highlights the need to revisit and modernize the Caribbean Basin Initiative, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose in a changing geopolitical and trade environment.

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