

Remarks delivered by Ms. Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) on behalf of Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, in celebration of Mexico's Independence Day on Friday September 14th, 2018 at # 22 Ellerslie Park, Maraval

Your Excellency Rosario A. Molinero, Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Trinidad and Tobago;

Your Excellencies, Heads of Mission, and other Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Your Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain, Alderman Joel Martinez;

Staff Members of the Embassy of Mexico and members of the Mexican community resident in Trinidad and Tobago;

Other Distinguished Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening everyone.

It is indeed an honour to be part of this evening's commemoration of the 208th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico. I would like to extend on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, and on my own behalf, congratulatory greetings to the Government and people of Mexico on this auspicious occasion.

Your Excellency, as you commemorate your first Independence Day as Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Trinidad and Tobago, allow me once again to welcome you to our shores and to wish you every success during your tenure in Trinidad and Tobago.

I wish to also commend you on the arrangements put in place for this evening's event, which are reflective of the diversity and rich cultural heritage of Mexico.

Your Excellency, today as we celebrate over two centuries of Mexico's Independence, I take the opportunity to reflect on the invaluable contributions of your nation's forefathers who made the "Día de la Independencia" possible. On this note, Mexico is also to be congratulated for the conduct of its elections held in June of this year, at which His Excellency Andres Manuel Lopez Obrado was elected President of the United Mexican States. This peaceful transition of power is testimony to the strength of Mexico's democracy.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1966, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico have enjoyed an excellent bilateral relationship, which I am confident will be enhanced under your stewardship. Over the years, our countries have actively collaborated in the areas of culture, trade, security, education and agriculture, which has redounded to the benefit of both our nations. In particular, I

wish to acknowledge the generosity of the Government of Mexico in offering a number of training opportunities and seminars to nationals and public officials of Trinidad and Tobago. The continued interest and outreach of the Government of Mexico demonstrates clearly the value attached to our bilateral relationship.

Your Excellency, in addition to our bilateral partnership, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico are both members of several international organizations where we share common interests in shaping political dialogue and technical cooperation. In this regard, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the leading role Mexico continues to play in the international arena on global issues such as international security cooperation. As such, please allow me to congratulate Mexico on its selection as the host of the 13th Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, which will take place in October, 2018. On this note, I also wish to place on record Trinidad and Tobago's appreciation for the support rendered by the Government of Mexico when this country hosted the 12th Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas in 2016.

Your Excellency, I wish to acknowledge your personal commitment to advancing our bilateral agenda. I also wish to reiterate that Trinidad and Tobago deeply values its relations with Mexico and remains committed to deepening and enhancing these bilateral ties.

In closing, I wish to extend on behalf of Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and on my own behalf sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Government and people of Mexico on this significant day.

I ask you to raise your glasses as we toast to the Government and people of the United Mexican States on this celebratory occasion.

I thank you.