



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE**  
**Communications Unit**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Dookeran says “New Diplomacy” needed between large countries and Small economies**

**Washington, DC.** At the G 24 meeting of ministers, in responding to the events in Europe and the United States, The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago, described the Caribbean region as “*innocent bystanders*” in the ongoing world crisis that threatens to undermine our financial markets and prospects for economic recovery.

In speaking to the G24 Meeting of Ministers of Finance, he emphasized that the G24 must now re-engage in a new diplomacy between the large countries of the world and the smaller economies. This is required to ensure that the impact on the financing of international public goods as well as on the standards of the financial system, are viewed as a global demand that requires both international and regional buffers to withstand these challenges.

Minister Dookeran indicated that Trinidad and Tobago has so far withstood the negative repercussions and is continuing the progression of drilling down for development.

At the G24 Meetings, the President of the World Bank, Mr. Robert Zoellick acknowledged the contribution of Minister Dookeran. The Managing Director of the IMF, Madam Christine Lagarde, indicated her institution’s openness to facilitate a forum to share the experiences of various countries in weathering global financial crises.

In an interview with the BBC shortly after the Meeting, Minister Dookeran reiterated his call for a sustainable programme for responding to external shocks of a financial nature; to be developed by both the World Bank and the IMF.

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