



# THE CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE



## A Shared Regional Security Partnership



Trinidad and Tobago is partnering with the other nations of the Caribbean and the United States to combat the drug trade and other transnational crime that threatens regional security. This shared security partnership, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), fulfills the commitment to deepen regional security cooperation that President Barack Obama made at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in April 2009.

### Enhancing Citizen Safety

CBSI complements other citizen safety initiatives between the United States and other partners in the hemisphere. CBSI will increase citizen safety throughout the Caribbean by working together to:

- Substantially reduce illicit trafficking
- Increase public safety and security
- Promote social justice

### Regional Cooperation

Participating nations worked together for more than a year to develop CBSI. In meetings, which leadership of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic facilitated, we assessed strategies to combat transnational crime and the root causes of crime and violence. Together, CBSI partnering nations adopted a Declaration of Principles, Plan of Action, and Framework for Security Cooperation at the inaugural Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Dialogue held in Washington, D.C. in May 2010.

We will continue this dialogue through technical working groups to coordinate local, national, and regional security and crime prevention activities and policies. These working groups will ensure effective and efficient implementation of programs, identify future program and policy needs, and inform policymakers at the 2nd annual Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Dialogue in 2011.

### United States Support Under CBSI

The United States will provide more than \$45 million to support CBSI in 2010. In addition, the Obama Administration has requested \$79 million to continue support for CBSI in 2011. This funding will complement non-monetary policy support the United States has committed to this multi-year partnership.

U.S. funding and programs complement those of our Caribbean partners. These programs were developed in response to those concerns and priorities discussed during our initial meetings, build on existing partnerships and prepare for future cooperation, and

meet objectives described in the CBSI Joint Plan of Action.

The first fiscal year of CBSI funding includes approximately \$700,000 for Trinidad and Tobago programs. Trinidad and Tobago will also benefit from approximately \$7.4 million for USAID-administered initiatives that will be divided among Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries. U.S. support will include:

- Command and control system, radios, and logistical and maintenance support to increase maritime interdiction capability
- Support for the implementation of cargo scanners and for the establishment of a canine unit at Scarborough seaport
- Training and support in best practice methods for substance abuse rehabilitation
- Training in the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes, terrorism financing, money laundering, and forensics
- Promoting coordination at the working level among justice sectors and institutions in order to harmonize policies, procedures, and systems across the OECS countries, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
- Remedial education for youth to facilitate workforce entry
- Youth entrepreneurship training and increased access to microfinance

### CBSI Complements Other U.S. Assistance

The U.S. commitment to Trinidad and Tobago and to the CBSI partnership extends beyond the CBSI funding described above, including support for the following:

- Police training in investigation techniques
- Providing professional development and technical training for the Defense Force and Coast Guard
- Assisting at-risk youth with job skills and other training
- International exchanges and training in hurricane preparedness, emergency management, prevention of human trafficking, and youth counseling and social intervention
- HIV/AIDS awareness, education, and sensitization

The United States looks forward to continued cooperation with its Caribbean partners to strengthen the CBSI partnership. More information is available at: [www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi](http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi)