

## **TRACIT speaks at TTMA’s Anti-Illicit Trade Forum, Develops Case Study on Government Action to Mitigate Illicit Trade in Trinidad and Tobago**

**26 October 2023, Trinidad and Tobago** – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) participated in the Anti-Illicit Trade Forum organized by the Trinidad and Tobago’s Manufacturer’s Association. Director General of TRACIT Jeff Hardy presented collaborative strategies to address illicit trade transcending national borders, which are highlighted in TRACIT's recent publication titled "***Good Practices in Fighting Illicit Trade: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago.***"

The report is a case study featuring recent government initiatives undertaken in Trinidad and Tobago to counter illicit trade, such as initiating task forces, implementing a National Action Plan, and encouraging cross border collaboration.

***“The efforts undertaken to orchestrate a holistic government approach across various agencies and fostering private sector engagement have been valuable in strengthening the nation's endeavors to combat illicit trade,” said Jeffrey Hardy, Director General of TRACIT.***

In response to the mounting negative effects of illicit trade on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, a number of measures were implemented. The government introduced the Road Map for Trinidad and Tobago: Transforming to a New Economy and a New Society and created a National Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force composed of several government, regulatory and law enforcement agencies.

***“Setting up a Task Force to review current legislation, conducting a gap analysis, and creating a strong legal framework is necessary to send a strong signal that illicit trade will not be tolerated in Trinidad and Tobago,” said Ministry of Trade Permanent Secretary Randall Karim.***

TRACIT’s report calls for further actions including prioritizing commitments to strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries; improving the access and exchange of data; including anti-illicit trade policies as a part of national plans to achieve the SDGs; strengthening IPR enforcement; promoting a clean digital environment and strengthening the customs environment.

***“It is evident that the government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken significant steps to prevent illicit trade in recent years. These efforts are commendable and represent meaningful steps forward - in Trinidad and Tobago and as lessons for others,” said Mr. Hardy. “Nonetheless, more needs to be done and additional policy recommendations can help Trinidad and Tobago to mitigate illicit trade more effectively.”***

**About TRACIT:** The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) is an independent, private sector initiative to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

**Access the Report:** [Illicit trade in Trinidad and Tobago - Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade \(tracit.org\)](#)

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