

T&T, Brazil to partner on air transport

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TRINIDAD and Tobago and Brazil share common values, including the promotion of peace, mutual understanding and cooperation, Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira said yesterday.

Vieira made the statement yesterday during a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The occasion, which featured performances of pan music, included the signing of a letter of intent by Minister of Foreign and Caricom Affairs Dr Amery Browne.

The letter encompasses a memorandum of understanding on an air transport agreement and a political cooperation framework.

Vieira described Trinidad and Tobago as an important partner in the region. 'Our countries have a lot in common. We share the same principles and goals as nations that prioritise peace, and we seek to promote mutual understanding and cooperation within our respective regions.'

'As a South American country, we view the Caribbean as our brothers, close to our hearts. We consider the Caribbean-and Trinidad and Tobago in particular-an essential partner in promoting peace, understanding, and collaboration within regional organisations.'

Vieira emphasised Brazil's interest in exploring partnerships in areas such as energy, health, education, and food security.

'We count on the participation of Trinidad and Tobago and the region as a whole to help achieve our shared goals. Together, we aim to develop financing and cooperation mechanisms for adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Your support and friendship are invaluable,' he added.

Browne echoed Vieira's sentiments, highlighting the importance of the partnership to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

'This partnership underscores our shared principles, particularly our mutual focus on peace and development. Both nations are committed to advancing collaboration across a variety of areas,' Browne said.

Browne outlined discussions between the two countries, which included healthcare, sports and tourism.

'Brazil is a powerhouse in the sporting arena. Collaboration in this area, as well as in culture, offers immense potential. We respect Brazil's contributions to cultural heritage across the Western Hemisphere and globally. In Trinidad and Tobago, we are equally proud of our Carnival celebrations and cultural innovations. There's much room for further cooperation,' he stated.

He also stressed the importance of improving tourism linkages and air connectivity between the two nations' capitals. Additionally, Browne commended Brazil's support during the Covid-19 pandemic.