

Network of National CCUS Centres of Excellence

An initiative jointly led by IEAGHG and the Gulf Coast Carbon Center

Report of the 3rd Meeting
3 September 2026

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Network of National CCUS Centres of Excellence (NNCCE)

Report of the 3rd Meeting
3 September 2026

Executive Summary

The Network of National CCUS Centres of Excellence (NNCCE) is a joint initiative spearheaded by IEAGHG and the Gulf Coast Carbon Center (GCCC) to support innovation, capacity-building and collaboration in CCUS across developing regions.

The 3rd meeting of the NNCCE was held online on 3 September 2026 and focused specifically on finance and funding for CCUS activities. Members were invited to share their experiences of securing funding, where approaches had been successful, the challenges encountered, and where further support or collaboration could be beneficial. The meeting also introduced the GCCC CCS Launchpad as a framework for considering how finance interacts with wider policy, institutional, technical and stakeholder readiness.

A key outcome of the meeting was an improved understanding of the different funding pathways being pursued across the network. These included national government funding, industry support, development-bank finance, international climate finance and international research partnerships. The experiences shared demonstrated that access to finance is rarely determined by the availability of funding alone. Government endorsement, alignment with national climate and technology priorities, credible technical capability, industry engagement and institutional readiness all emerged as important factors in progressing CCUS activities.

The discussion also highlighted the value of sharing experience between centres at different stages of development and with different strengths across government, industry and academia. Potential areas for further collaboration included regional engagement and capacity-building activities, improved understanding of international funding mechanisms, and continued peer exchange on practical barriers to accessing finance.

The 4th NNCCE meeting was held in person during GHGT-18 in Perth, Australia, on 29 October 2026, and provided another opportunity for members to continue the exchange and discuss priorities for future collaboration.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the 3rd NNCCE meeting was to bring members together to share their experiences of accessing finance and funding for CCUS activities. Each organisation was invited to briefly outline where funding had been successfully secured, the challenges encountered, and areas where additional assistance or collaboration could be beneficial.

The meeting was intended to move beyond identifying available funding sources and provide practical insight into how different centres have built the technical, institutional and policy foundations required to access them. It also created space for members to compare different funding pathways, identify common barriers and explore opportunities for peer support and future collaboration.

Network Overview

The Network of National CCUS Centres of Excellence (NNCCE) is a member-led network that connects national and regional CCUS centres and partner organisations across the Global South. Its purpose is to create tangible value for members by supporting collaboration, peer learning, and capacity-building, and by enabling practical exchange of knowledge and experience across different national contexts.

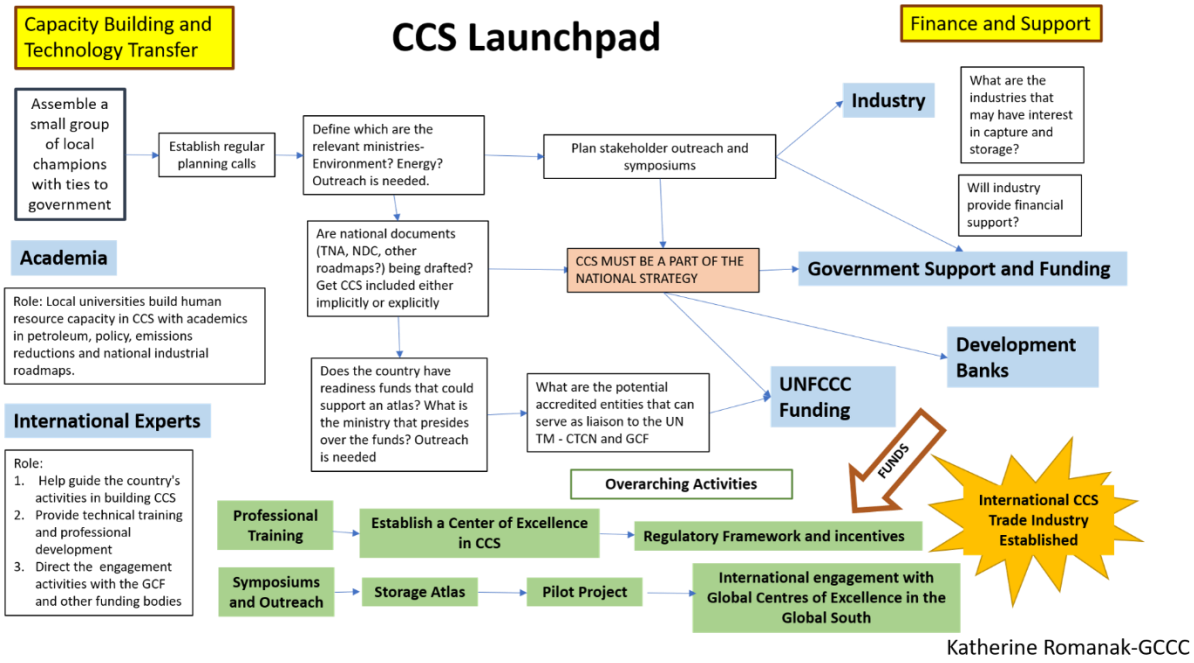
NNCCE is founded on the principle of equitable collaboration where members contribute and benefit through shared learning, while respecting differences in national priorities and readiness. The network's early design was shaped through exploratory discussions in October 2024 in Regina (with additional virtual participation), which emphasised member ownership and broad representation across geographies and sectors. This background continues to underpin NNCCE's approach in 2026.

IEAGHG, Gulf Coast Carbon Centre (GCCC) and the International CCS Knowledge Centre support NNCCE as facilitators, helping to convene meetings and coordinate exchange across the network.

Regional and National Centre Updates

GCCC – CCS Launchpad and Pathways to Finance

GCCC introduced the CCS Launchpad, a framework developed by Katherine Romanak to help countries identify and address the technical regulatory, institutional, and financial requirements for establishing a national CCS industry. For this meeting, the framework was used to illustrate how access to finance is linked to wider national readiness, including policy support, institutional capacity, technical development and stakeholder engagement.



Katherine Romanak-GCCC

Key elements highlighted from a finance perspective include:

- Recognition that CCS needs to be reflected in relevant national strategies and climate-policy documents, including Technology Needs Assessments and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), to strengthen the basis for government and international support.
- Engagement with the relevant government ministries and national institutions responsible for energy, environment and climate policy.
- Identification and engagement with UNFCCC-accredited entities, which can provide an important route towards accessing international climate finance.
- Exploration of national readiness funding and other UNFCCC-linked funding mechanisms that could support the development of CCS activities.
- Engagement with industry, particularly where companies face increasing pressure to reduce the carbon intensity of their operations and products.

- Consideration of government funding and regional or international development banks as additional potential sources of support.

The Launchpad was also proposed as a useful framework for cooperation within NNCCE. By identifying where individual centres are already strong and where gaps remain, members could potentially share experience and support one another across different stages of the CCS development and financing pathway.

During the discussion, the continuing difficulty of accessing finance specifically for CCS was highlighted. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was identified as an important potential route, with Trinidad and Tobago's experience providing a relevant example for other centres exploring similar opportunities. Regional development banks were also noted as possible sources of finance.

The wider policy environment was also discussed as a potential driver for future CCS investment. Measures such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) may strengthen incentives for exporting industries and governments to reduce the carbon intensity of products. Paris Agreement Article 6 mechanisms were also raised, including Article 6.4 in relation to CCS and removals and Article 6.8 as an area worth exploring further for non-market international cooperation and research-related activities.

Trinidad and Tobago

Building on activities reported at the previous NNCCE meeting, Trinidad and Tobago described how its CCS work has progressed from national and industry funding towards international climate finance.

Key funding developments reported include:

- An initial US$296,000 grant from the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries to support development of the national CO_2 storage atlas, delivered jointly by the University of the West Indies and the University of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Additional industry support of US$100,000 from Shell and US$100,000 from bp in Trinidad and Tobago (bpTT) for further storage atlas work.
- A subsequent US$888,000 government grant covering additional onshore and offshore storage assessment, including consideration of CO_2-EOR coupled with storage.

A major focus of the presentation was Trinidad and Tobago's experience with the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. A joint proposal for Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname was approved in March 2024 with an overall budget of US$2 million, supporting several institutions and activities including assessment of saline aquifer storage potential. Trinidad and Tobago was reported as the first country to receive GCF funding specifically for CCS-related activities.

Approximately US$258,000 of the GCF allocation supported work undertaken by UWI and UTT between March 2025 and August 2026. Activities included assessment of saline aquifer storage potential and development of a framework and strategic plan for a centre of excellence, with technical support from the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin.

The presentation also provided practical insight into accessing GCF finance. Applications require strong alignment with national climate-policy documents, identification of barriers and beneficiaries, implementation and monitoring arrangements, risk assessment, and detailed budgeting and procurement planning. The readiness proposal took approximately 18 months to reach final approval, underlining the persistence and institutional coordination required to access international climate finance.

Looking ahead, the next objective is to develop a pilot and field-demonstration proposal, with potential support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and further collaboration with GCCC/BEG. Additional GCF support is being explored as a possible route towards financing a larger-scale demonstration project.

During the discussion, government endorsement emerged as a critical enabling factor. International climate-finance proposals require strong national support, making it important to position CCS within wider economic and decarbonisation priorities. The discussion also highlighted the challenge of securing attention for CCS where it competes with other technologies, with measures such as CBAM potentially strengthening the case for CCS in export-oriented economies.

China – Northwest University

Northwest University described a funding pathway that has developed from international capacity-building support into government-backed research and increasingly industry-funded technical work. The experience showed how early funding can be used to build the capability and credibility needed to access larger opportunities later.

Key funding developments reported include:

- Following establishment of the national CCS centre in 2016, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided approximately US$1.2 million for capacity building. The funding supported training for government and industry representatives, international knowledge exchange and development of engineering capability.
- The ADB support also enabled the centre to develop the technical design for a proposed large-scale CCS demonstration project. A project valued at approximately CNY 2 billion was pursued between 2017 and 2020 but was ultimately not approved. Nevertheless, the process substantially strengthened the centre's engineering and project-development capability.

- This expertise has since created a route to industry-funded technical work, including storage-site screening, geological evaluation, well and seismic design, environmental assessment and wider CCS project development.
- Government engagement has provided a parallel source of support, with provincial and local authorities funding work on CCS regulation, project development and research infrastructure.

The presentation also highlighted the importance of policy engagement in creating the conditions for future finance. Following the unsuccessful demonstration proposal, more than 40 Chinese academicians supported efforts to raise the profile of CCS within government. CCS was subsequently reflected in important national policy documents, helping strengthen the enabling environment for future projects.

The centre is now involved in new large-scale CCS activity, including a project associated with a coal-fired power plant beginning with a 100,000 tCO_2/yr pilot phase, involving drilling and injectivity testing, before progression towards larger-scale storage.

The presentation also emphasised the importance of international technical support and trusted partnerships. Assistance from the International CCS Knowledge Centre and Mike Monea was highlighted as particularly important during the centre's early development. Their involvement helped strengthen confidence among Chinese government stakeholders, provided access to international CCS experience and supported the centre in building the technical capability needed to make effective use of funding and pursue further domestic and international support.

A key lesson from China's experience is that early capacity-building finance can create value well beyond the original grant. Even where major projects were not initially approved, the technical capability, relationships and institutional credibility developed through those efforts later supported stronger government engagement and created a continuing pipeline of industry-funded technical work.

India – Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)

IIT Bombay described how funding for CCUS in India has developed alongside growing government recognition of geological storage. When the National Centre of Excellence was established in 2020, storage still had limited policy support and the centre initially focused on carbon capture and utilisation, with CO_2-EOR providing an early route for subsurface activity.

Since then, sustained technical work, government engagement and collaboration with national energy companies have helped broaden support for dedicated CO_2 storage and attract new sources of funding.

Key funding developments reported include:

- The National Centre of Excellence was initially fully funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), with approximately US$500,000 provided to establish the centre. More than 20 knowledge and industrial partners were involved.
- Early conferences and engagement with international experts, funding organisations and government representatives helped build awareness of CCS and strengthen the case for its inclusion in India's decarbonisation strategy.
- As technical capability developed, IIT Bombay increasingly began working with national oil and gas companies, including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited, on basin screening, storage-site identification and potential pilot projects, creating a pathway towards more industry-linked project funding.
- Public-sector companies are also supporting more advanced storage activities. National Thermal Power Corporation has drilled dedicated CO_2 storage wells in eastern India, while IIT Bombay has established an integrated CCUS demonstration facility with support from DST, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons and IIT Bombay.

The most significant recent development was the announcement of approximately US$2.2 billion for CCUS in India, alongside a dedicated national CCUS mission. At the time of the meeting, details of how this funding would be distributed between research, industry and other activities were still being developed.

Even where future funding is directed primarily to industry, IIT Bombay expects to remain closely involved through storage screening, site characterisation and project development. Recent work with ONGC has assessed storage opportunities in saline aquifers and depleted oil and gas fields, with further projects under development.

A key lesson from India's experience is that large-scale funding followed a longer period of technical capability-building and government engagement. Early public research support, collaboration with national energy companies and evidence of domestic storage potential helped establish the basis for a much larger national commitment to CCUS.

Morocco – Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)

UM6P described how CCUS activity in Morocco has developed in an environment where renewable energy and green hydrogen have traditionally received greater policy and industrial attention. Rather than relying on a dedicated national CCS funding programme, the approach has been to build capability through industry-supported decarbonisation projects and progressively strengthen the case for CCS.

Key developments relevant to finance include:

- UM6P has developed a portfolio of industry-supported decarbonisation projects valued at approximately €2–3 million, involving a team of around 15 people. Activities include CO_2 capture and utilisation alongside work to reduce emissions from industrial processes such as phosphate calcination and phosphoric acid production.
- The close relationship with OCP Group, which funds the university, has provided an important route for developing CCUS capability while addressing practical industrial decarbonisation needs.
- Interest from Morocco's cement sector has increased significantly, with companies now revisiting earlier CCUS discussions and considering what would be required to move towards implementation.

Discussions are progressing around the creation of a Moroccan CCUS cluster or task force, bringing together major industrial actors and potentially providing a stronger platform for coordinated projects and future investment.

A recent cement-sector decarbonisation roadmap has also given CCS a more prominent role, including increasing recognition of the need to consider dedicated CO_2 storage. The presentation highlighted CBAM as an important factor in changing the economic framing of CCS for export-oriented industries, from an additional cost towards a potential means of maintaining competitiveness.

During the discussion, it was noted that CCS is already referenced in Morocco's NDC. The possible development of a new Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) was identified as an opportunity to strengthen the position of CCS within national planning and potentially improve access to future international climate finance.

Colombia – Ecopetrol

Ecopetrol described a funding model that remains primarily internally financed, reflecting its position as a state-majority-owned company operating under public-sector governance and procurement requirements. While several CCUS activities are progressing, the company has not yet secured significant external grant funding.

Key points reported include:

- Current CCUS studies and technical activities are funded mainly from within Ecopetrol, including work on CO_2-EOR and associated CO_2 retention and storage.
- Dedicated CO_2 storage policy and regulation are still under development in Colombia. In the meantime, CO_2-EOR provides the principal route for progressing subsurface CO_2 projects, while the regulatory framework for dedicated storage continues to evolve.

- Ecopetrol is working with several national institutions, including the Ministry of Mines and Energy, environmental authorities and the National Hydrocarbons Agency, to improve coordination around regulation and project development.
- An earlier attempt to pursue external funding with international partners was not successful, with legal, administrative and documentation requirements creating significant internal barriers. The experience nevertheless helped identify how internal processes need to be adapted to respond more efficiently to future funding opportunities.

A central challenge highlighted was the complexity of operating within public-company procedures. Rigorous internal legal and administrative requirements can make it difficult to respond quickly to external funding calls or establish new funding arrangements, even where there is technical interest in progressing projects.

The presentation indicated that lessons from earlier attempts have improved Ecopetrol's internal readiness, and there is now greater confidence that future funding opportunities can be pursued more efficiently.

Overall, Ecopetrol's experience illustrates that access to finance can depend as much on institutional and administrative readiness as on the availability of funding itself. Strengthening internal processes while continuing coordination with government and regulatory bodies will therefore be important for accessing future external support.

Ecuador – Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL)

ESPOL highlighted the challenge of developing CCUS in an environment where research and development investment remains limited and links between government, industry and academia are still relatively weak. With dedicated national CCUS funding not yet established, international collaboration has provided an important route for building early technical capability and visibility.

Key funding developments reported include:

- A successful partnership with the University of Bergen and Universidad Nacional de Colombia secured approximately US$300,000 for CCUS-related activities at ESPOL. Funding has supported the establishment of laboratory capability, postgraduate research, student support and international mobility.
- Part of this funding has also supported participation in international research and knowledge-exchange activities, helping strengthen ESPOL's technical profile and create a stronger basis for approaching future funders and national stakeholders.
- ESPOL is seeking to use its established reputation as a leading public university in Ecuador, together with its growing CCUS track record, to build greater government and industry support for future activities.

The presentation emphasised that, at this stage, building credibility is almost as important as the funding itself. International partnerships, research outputs, student development and participation in international initiatives are being used to demonstrate capability and establish a stronger platform from which to pursue larger CCUS programmes.

Looking ahead, ESPOL intends to strengthen engagement with national and regional institutions and use its existing experience as the basis for developing new funding opportunities. The broader ambition is to move from individual research activities towards more coordinated CCUS capacity and project development.

Key Themes from the Discussion

The meeting demonstrated that there is no single pathway to financing CCUS activities across the network. Members reported a range of approaches, including national government funding, industry support, international climate finance, development-bank funding and international research partnerships. The appropriate route depends strongly on national circumstances, the maturity of CCUS activity and the relationship between centres, government and industry.

A recurring theme was that finance often follows capability and policy support rather than preceding them. Experiences from several members showed the value of using early research and capacity-building funding to establish technical expertise, demonstrate credibility and build relationships with government and industry. These foundations can subsequently create opportunities for larger public programmes, industry-funded work and project development.

The importance of government engagement and national policy alignment was also emphasised. Access to international climate finance can depend on CCS being recognised within relevant national strategies, NDCs, Technology Needs Assessments and other policy frameworks. At the same time, increasing industrial pressure to decarbonise, including through mechanisms such as CBAM, is beginning to strengthen the commercial case for CCS in some countries.

The discussion also highlighted the different strengths of centres across the three areas of academia, government and industry. Some members have strong industrial relationships, while others have developed closer links with government or research institutions. This creates an opportunity for NNCCE members to learn from one another on how these relationships have been established and used to support CCUS development.

Opportunities Identified and Suggested Follow-ups

A number of practical follow-up opportunities emerged from the discussion:

- Regional collaboration in Latin America: participants discussed engaging organisations such as Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE) to explore regional CCUS capacity-building and potential funding opportunities, rather than approaching these solely on a country-by-country basis. Opportunities to raise this with relevant international funding organisations, including around COP31, were also discussed.
- Latin American CCUS course: ESPOL proposed developing a short virtual CCUS course in collaboration with OLADE. Several NNCCE members indicated willingness to contribute technical expertise and speakers.
- Morocco Technology Needs Assessment: follow-up was proposed to better understand the ongoing TNA process in Morocco and explore whether CCS can be appropriately reflected within it, potentially strengthening future access to international climate-finance opportunities.
- Support for technical participation: members highlighted the continuing difficulty of financing travel and participation in international conferences, workshops and project visits. The coordinating organisations agreed to remain alert to relevant support mechanisms and funding opportunities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The meeting reinforced that securing finance for CCUS is not simply a matter of identifying available funding. The experiences shared showed that access to finance is closely linked to technical capability, institutional readiness, government support, industry engagement and alignment with national priorities.

The different funding pathways presented also demonstrated the value of exchange between centres at different stages of development. Members have developed strengths in different areas, including government funding, international climate finance, industry partnerships and capacity-building support, creating opportunities for experience to be shared across the network.

The discussion highlighted continued peer exchange between members as one practical way for NNCCE to support centres facing specific funding, institutional or stakeholder-engagement challenges.

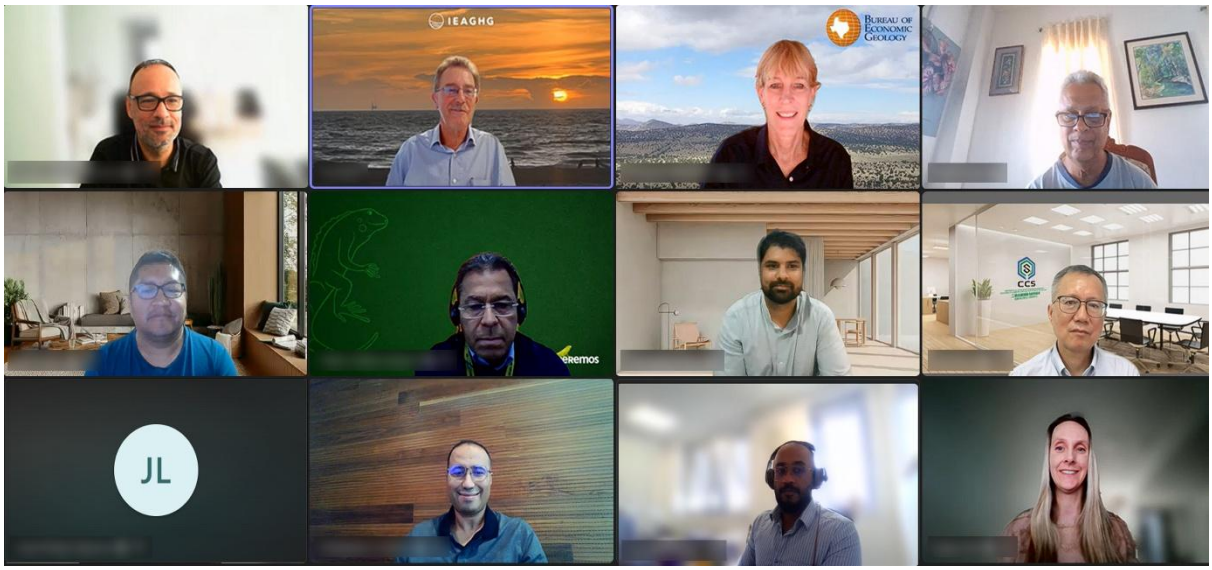
Next Steps and Forthcoming Meetings

In closing, the coordinating organisations confirmed that the 4th NNCCE meeting will be held in person during GHGT-18 in Perth, Australia, on Thursday 29 October 2026, following the conclusion of the conference programme. The in-person format was highlighted as an important opportunity for members attending GHGT-18 to meet and continue discussions within the network.

Members were invited to suggest topics for the meeting. One potential focus raised during the discussion was the relationship between academia, government and industry, and how centres that have developed strong engagement in one of these areas could share their experience with others seeking to strengthen similar relationships.

GHGT-18 will also provide wider opportunities for NNCCE members to participate in discussions relevant to CCS deployment in developing countries, including a dedicated conference session involving members of the network.

Further details and the agenda for the 4th NNCCE meeting will be circulated to members closer to the event.



Appendix A: Meeting Participants

Name	Organisation	Country
Tim Dixon	IEAGHG	UK
Katherine D. Romanak	Gulf Coast Carbon Center, The University of Texas at Austin, Bureau of Economic Geology	USA
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Helber Cubillos Gutierrez	Ecopetrol	Colombia
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Danilo Andres Arcentales Bastidas	ESPOL	Ecuador
José Condor	ESPOL	Ecuador
Jorge Rodrigo Lliguizaca Davila	ESPOL	Ecuador
Vikram Vishal	IIT Bombay	India
Yashvardhan Verma	IIT Bombay	India
Jazmín Mota	MeCCS	Mexico
Abdelghafour Zaabout	University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P)	Morocco
Raffie Hosein	CCUS Collaborative Centre (UWI/UTT)	Trinidad and Tobago

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