

Statement of United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the OECS for

Antigua and Barbuda

22 September 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

The United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (UNST) welcomes the report of the working group on the Universal Periodic Review of Antigua and Barbuda.

The UNST notes that after accepting the first cycle UPR recommendations to establish a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles, Antigua and Barbuda chose not to accept those recommendations from the second UPR cycle. The UNST urges Antigua and Barbuda to continue moving toward the establishment of an NHRI consistent with its earlier position.

While the UNST commends the Government for passing legislation covering child care and protection, adoption, and juvenile justice, the UNST notes that this legislation has not yet been proclaimed. The UNST urges Antigua and Barbuda to proclaim these pieces of legislation so that their provisions can be fully implemented.

Violence against women is a serious human rights concern in Antigua and Barbuda. The UNST commends the government on the adoption of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and encourages Antigua and Barbuda to continue working towards its implementation with the support of UN Women.

Finally, the UNST urges Antigua and Barbuda to submit its overdue State Report to the CEDAW Committee, to establish an institutionalized, permanent mechanism to coordinate the implementation of human rights recommendations and to ensure the timely submission of treaty body reports moving forward.

Thank you