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UN Human Rights Council

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the willingness by Saint Kitts and Nevis to implement its human rights obligations, including by seeking related technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the international community.¹ We hope this will enable the country to ratify core human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Although Saint Kitts and Nevis has accepted a recommendation to review and investigate the administration of the legal rights of death row prisoners,² Amnesty International regrets that none of the recommendations related to abolishing the death penalty enjoy its support.³ As the State itself noted during its review, no strong evidence exists that the death penalty works as a deterrent. Rather Saint Kitts and Nevis must employ other remedies, such as strengthening the capacities and resources of the criminal justice system to combat the rising violent crime in the country. We take this opportunity to reiterate our call to the government to repeal all provisions allowing for the death penalty and to declare a moratorium on executions.

Mr. President,

We urge Saint Kitts and Nevis to accept the recommendations aimed at decriminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and combating

¹ A/HRC/17/12, paragraphs 75.37-75.39 (Botswana, Uruguay, Jamaica)
² Ibid, paragraph 75.32 (Canada)
³ Ibid, paragraph 77.1-77.13 (Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway, Hungary, Sweden, Slovakia, France, Spain, Slovenia, Norway, Australia)

discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.⁴ Although the government has pointed out that the legislation criminalizing sexual relations between consenting male adults (sections 56 and 57 of the Offences against the Person Act) is not enforced, the existence of such laws impede the "culture of tolerance" which the government claims exists in the country. It also violates Saint Kitts and Nevis' non-discrimination obligations under international law.

Finally Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the endorsement by Saint Kitts and Nevis of recommendations to tackle violence against women⁵ and also calls on the government to keep under consideration the recommendations aimed at revising the age of criminal responsibility for children.⁶

Thank you, Mr President.

⁴ Ibid, paragraphs 76.49-76.56 (Sweden, Spain, Uruguay, Canada, Norway, United States of America, France)

⁵ Ibid, 75.12, 75.20-75.28 (Ecuador, Ecuador, South Africa, United States of America, Argentina, Spain, Uruguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Maldives, Norway)

⁶ Ibid, 76.44-76.48 (Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Hungary, Slovakia, Turkey)