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Universal Periodic Review

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic
Review***

Saint Lucia

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Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1–4	3
I Summary of the proceedings of the review process.....	5–87	3
A. Presentation by the State under review.....	5–34	3
B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	35–87	6
II. Conclusions and/or recommendations	88–89	14
Annex		
Composition of the delegation		22

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Saint Lucia was held at the 7th meeting on 5 November 2015. The delegation of Saint Lucia was headed by the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Menissa Rambally. At its 14th meeting held on 10 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Saint Lucia.
2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Saint Lucia: Brazil, Ethiopia and Ireland.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Saint Lucia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/LCA/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/LCA/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/LCA/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Saint Lucia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation opened its remarks by stating that Saint Lucia came under its second review within the context of two significant ongoing democratic processes that had an impact on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens. A constitutional reform and the incorporation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into National Development plans.
6. The constitutional reform, that had years in progress through successive Governments, sought to bridge the disconnection between democracy and the fundamental Charter and harmonize this document with the island's changing social and political circumstances. Regarding the 2030 Agenda, the delegation noted that the Government believed that the security of the rights and well-being of all its citizens was an important pillar in the country's development.
7. Since its first review, Saint Lucia had experienced a series of challenges which had impacted the Government's ability to maintain the balance of meeting its international human rights obligations while responding to emerging crises that required the Government to safeguard its citizens from immediate harm.
8. The delegation acknowledged that the Government faced challenges to implement its obligations and recommendations previously received. Outside of the impact of the

constitutional reform and other processes that informed Saint Lucia's priorities, the real and immediate challenge was that of the limitations of human and technical capacity. For instance, the legal department of the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia, was staffed with one legal officer, who had the responsibility for all legal matters across all three of the Ministry's portfolios. The capacity of the Attorney General's Chambers was also limited to one legislative drafter.

9. However, the delegation expressed its intent to announce by the March plenary session of Council further achievements in the area of human rights. For instance, the formal process toward the ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute had started. Also, work was underway to establish a centralized data base to manage international instruments, which would allow easier access to information concerning Saint Lucia's obligations, thus assisting in the processing of reports.

10. Since independence the participation of women in key sectors in society had been significant. According to a January 2015 ILO report, 52.3 % of managerial positions in Saint Lucia were held by women. Moreover, Saint Lucia's Constitutional Reform process was itself headed by a female Justice.

11. Further Government endeavors such as the Women in Equality Empowerment Program (WEEP), the complete revamp of the education system through the Education Act of 1999, and the active participation of women at the helm in both the public and private sectors, further evidenced Saint Lucia's commitment to ensuring equality amongst its population.

12. With the goal of sustaining the principle of equity between men and women, Saint Lucia affirmed its commitment to the full implementation of all the provisions enshrined in the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

13. The Government guarded jealously its role in the protection of children, a fact which had guided and shaped national policies and efforts to protect the vulnerable, and ensure equal opportunity to children in all parts of the country.

14. In 2012 a National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) was established, with the goal of coordinating and reporting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As stated in the national report, it was the intent of the Government to provide the Committee with adequate, human, technical and financial resources to effectively implement and coordinate comprehensive, coherent and consistent child-rights policies in line with Saint Lucia's obligations.

15. Child Friendly Budgeting had been introduced under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance to increase and better allocate funding for youth related matters. Concrete and dedicated efforts were being made to safeguard disadvantaged, vulnerable, and abused children in the education system and society at large.

16. With respect to the relationship between corporal punishment and children, the delegation noted that with the introduction of the Friendly Schools Programme, many educational institutions had embraced alternative methods of disciplining students, as opposed to the use of corporal punishment.

17. Furthermore, the use of corporal punishment on children would also be considered in the context of the ongoing reform of the Juvenile Justice System, as well as the issue of life imprisonment being applicable to minors.

18. The Government was also considering whether further ordinary legislation addressing discrimination against persons due to their sexual orientation should be enacted, as suggested by the Constitutional Reform Commission. To this end, the Labor Code Act of

2006 made it unlawful for an employer to dismiss or institute disciplinary action, against an employee based on sexual orientation.

19. The national report had emphasized that all Saint Lucians, including LGBTI persons, were afforded full protection under the Constitution, as it provided judicial redress to any individual who alleged that his/her fundamental rights had been, or were likely to be contravened.

20. Additionally, the Government was engaged in the establishment of a police unit to handle cases of sexual violence. This unit would be headed by the Assistant Commissioner of Police and would handle all matters pertaining to sexual violence inclusive of abuses against vulnerable groups including women and children.

21. Also, the “National helpline”, as indicated in the National Report, did not deal solely with potential suicide cases but also other social and emotional issues. The Hotline provided an avenue for victims of sexual abuse to speak freely, with the hope of receiving the requisite assistance.

22. During the preparation of the national report, the Government consulted a wide cross-section of civil society. These consultations allowed for the Government to gauge the temperament of its people on a myriad of areas concerning human rights.

23. The Government was able to ascertain how policy decisions such as the provision of Five Hundred Dollar grants to students entering Secondary School had benefited parents and students alike; how the School Mentoring program had redirected the course of at risk youths and how women who could not ordinarily afford access to obstetric and maternal services, had been able to meet their healthcare needs.

24. Furthermore, following the Government’s requests for input from across civil society, contributions were received from non-profit organisations, including RISE Saint Lucia Inc., and United and Strong which covered the rights of children and LGBTI concerns respectively.

25. Saint Lucia had made solid progress in the area of health care as the Government sought to ensure that all persons, regardless of their socio-economic standing, had access to adequate, efficient and quality care. Considerable resources had been dedicated to improving health services, facilities and available medical treatment, with special emphasis placed on women’s health and HIV/AIDS.

26. The Constitution recognized the Government’s intolerance for torture and the 2008 Criminal Code specifically prohibited the use of excessive force by any member of society against another. In the sphere of public life, under the 2000 Integrity in Public Life Act, an Integrity Commission was created and tasked with receiving and investigating complaints against public officials.

27. Furthermore, the provisions of the Criminal Code which denounced the use of torture, physical abuse and excessive force applied as much to the use of force by the police as it did to any other ordinary citizen. These provisions would have the effect of making a correctional officer serve up to seven years in prison was he/she to use any form of torture on an inmate.

28. Also, amendments made to the 2013 Police Complaints Act provided that the Minister with responsibility was charged with full rights to launch an investigation into any alleged incidences of abuse of force by any member of the police against any member of the public. The Act also introduced a more thorough and transparent method of investigating alleged grievances brought forward by members of the public against the police. There was a two tiered approach to handling complaints as they had to first filter

through the Police Complaints Unit and then to the Police Complaints Commission, wholly independent from the police.

29. With respect to the status of the investigation of the alleged extra-judicial killings by the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the delegation recalled that the Government had retained the assistance of the CARICOM Implementation Agency on Crime and Security (IMPACS) to further investigate the matter.

30. IMPACS produced a report, prepared by investigators of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. In March 2015, the Prime Minister made a national statement on the matter providing general information on the findings of the investigation where he indicated that the report had been passed on to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions under whom all criminal prosecutions were handled. He also noted that the Government would provide all necessary resources as may be required to assist the Crown Prosecution Service in pursuing this matter.

31. The delegation considered that Saint Lucia's commitment to its citizen's right to remedy and the effective administration of justice had been met with hurdles along the way, as the workings of the legal system were crippled by financial, technical and human limitations and constraints, that resulted in insufficient judicial officers, court staff and court rooms. In this context, the delegation indicated that the support of relevant agencies and friendly member States in the international community was most welcome.

32. On capital punishment, the delegation noted that the Constitutional Reform Committee's report before Parliament acknowledged that during the sensitization process amongst the public at large, persons shared very strong views for and against capital punishment. The Committee's recommendation in this regard, was for the retention of Capital Punishment. The question was currently being deliberated in Parliament, and a final decision on the matter had yet to be had.

33. The Government had continued to champion poverty reduction and sustainable development through specific policies and programmes since the last review. One example was the recently introduced Social Protection Reform programme –which improved the identification of individuals who required social assistance and ensured that the assistance reached those who were most in need- and the development of a management information system for social assistance programs, tasked with keeping all relevant information in a centralised location.

34. Also, the Government, in tandem with the World Bank, had completed an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of social safety net programming. The Government intended to implement the resulting recommendations.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

35. During the interactive dialogue, 44 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

36. Portugal welcomed the ratification by Saint Lucia of two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while expressing concern that provisions of the Convention were not fully incorporated into domestic legislation. Portugal also commended Saint Lucia for signing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Portugal made recommendations.

37. Sierra Leone applauded the efforts to improve the water supply situation. It urged that children and youth with learning disabilities be included in all educational programmes. Sierra Leone commended the enactment of the Police Complaints Act and encouraged speedy implementation of the Use of Force Policy for the Royal Saint Lucia

Police. It encouraged domestication of the CRC and activation of the mandate of the National Action Child Protection Committee to guarantee the minimum age of criminal liability, to deal with discrimination against children born out of wedlock, juvenile justice and corporal punishment; and to ratify OP-CRC-IC. Sierra Leone enquired on the role that civil society played in addressing human rights and. It made recommendations.

38. Slovenia welcomed the adoption by Saint Lucia of programmes to include marginalized youth in education and to reduce the number of drop-outs. Slovenia commended Saint Lucia for engaging in awareness raising activities against corporal punishment as well as training sessions and parenting programmes to promote alternative forms of punishment, while it remained concerned that corporal punishment remained illegal. Slovenia expressed concern at the persistence of child labour and at the lack of constitutional prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity which allowed for LGBTI persons persecuted and harassed on a daily basis. Slovenia noted with regret that Saint Lucia had still not become a party to several core human rights treaties. Slovenia made recommendations.

39. South Africa was encouraged that Saint Lucia intended to meet its obligations on the ratification of international instruments and on reporting, despite capacity constraints. South Africa welcomed the major strides made in ensuring the empowerment of women and that women in rural areas had better access to education and vocational training programmes. It also welcomed the affirmation of the rights of all children to receive an education and the prohibition of students being refused admission to schools on any discriminatory grounds. South Africa was further encouraged to note that the Constitution of Saint Lucia prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex, race, place of origin, political opinion, colour or creed. It made recommendations.

40. Spain recognized the efforts and proactive policies of Saint Lucia for the recognition and protection of human rights, including the ratification of both OP-CRC and the signature of ICCPR and CRPD. Spain expressed its appreciation for the non-application of the death penalty in Saint Lucia and for the Government's efforts to combat gender discrimination. Spain made recommendations.

41. Trinidad and Tobago noted with satisfaction that Saint Lucia since the first universal periodic review in 2011 had accorded increased commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, despite the daunting challenge of the lack of financial and technical resources required to fully cater to the human rights needs of its citizens. Trinidad and Tobago was pleased to note the legislative advances made to protect the rights of children, and in particular the establishment of the National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) in 2012. Trinidad and Tobago made recommendations.

42. The United States of America noted certain actions taken to reform the Police Force since the alleged extrajudicial killings in 2010-2011. It remained deeply concerned at the apparent continued impunity for officers possibly involved in the alleged extrajudicial killings, and the resulting lack of accountability and diminished respect for law enforcement and the rule of law. It asked whether any special investigative committee had been established, as noted in the Prime Minister's March address, to investigate those allegations and implement the recommendations of the CARICOM-IMPACS report. It remained concerned at the criminalization of same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults, which contributed to pervasive discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons. It made recommendations.

43. Uruguay praised that Saint Lucia acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, ratified the two optional protocols to the CRC and signed the ICCPR. It welcomed the efforts of the Government to ensure the full realization of the right to drinking water and the measures adopted on gender

equality. It welcomed the promotion of male participation in child care, the efforts to improve access to education and the provision of free obstetric and maternal and child health services. Uruguay made recommendations.

44. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considered that the participation of Saint Lucia in the UPR was a clear demonstration of its commitment with Human Rights and appreciated the efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during the first review. Saint Lucia had implemented major legislative and administrative measures that had strengthened its framework for protecting human rights, including the accession to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and the subsequent enactment of the law against trafficking. Despite the impact of the economic crisis, Saint Lucia had undertaken initiatives to reduce poverty such as the program for public assistance that provided medical aid and care to more than 2,400 poor households. Venezuela made recommendations.

45. Algeria appreciated efforts undertaken to better the economic situation in Saint Lucia, in spite of the consequences of the economic crisis, as well as the adoption of a review programme on social security for the purpose of its improvement. It called upon the international community to provide the necessary technical assistance and strengthen capacities to enable Saint Lucia to take up the challenges related to human rights promotion and protection. Algeria made recommendations.

46. Argentina congratulated Saint Lucia for the 2013 campaign promoting universal and free and birth registration. Argentina noted with concern the persistence of sexual abuse of children, despite the measures taken by the authorities. Argentina made recommendations.

47. Armenia appreciated the steps undertaken towards the promotion of women's rights, combating the trafficking of persons, as well as the signing and ratifying of a few human rights instruments since Saint Lucia's first review. Armenia noted that there were still remained a number of core international human rights instruments and treaties to be ratified. Armenia also noted that despite some progress in the promotion of the rights of the child, there were many cases of child abuse and neglect in the country. Armenia made recommendations.

48. Australia commended Saint Lucia for signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Australia acknowledged the positive steps Saint Lucia had taken to reduce poverty and foster economic growth. Australia remained concerned at on-going sexual and gender-based violence in Saint Lucia, including against minors. Australia asked Saint Lucia about the steps it had taken to address discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity since the last periodic review. Australia called on Saint Lucia to promote equality and non-discrimination. While noting that the death penalty had reportedly not been imposed in Saint Lucia since 1995, Australia expressed concern that the penalty still existed in legislation. Australia made recommendations.

49. Bahamas was pleased to note that despite the challenges faced by Saint Lucia significant strides have been made to ensure that the basic human rights of the people of Saint Lucia were protected. Bahamas welcomed the numerous national policies, programmes, plans and initiatives undertaken and envisaged in such critical areas as housing, food security, social protection, education and health. Bahamas noted the positive trajectory on women's empowerment, particularly with respect to the participation of women in politics. Bahamas expressed appreciation for the steps taken by Saint Lucia to establish partnerships both bilateral as well with various United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized agencies to support Government efforts to promote and protect human rights. Bahamas made a recommendation.

50. Barbados noted the severe constraints placed on small states to meet its obligations under human rights instruments, notwithstanding the paucity of financial, administrative

and technical resources. Barbados commended Saint Lucia for protections afforded by the Constitution against and for condemnation of violence against all persons. Barbados applauded the efforts to bring women into the mainstream of society through access to educational and vocational training, with an emphasis on women in rural areas. Barbados noted the attention given to enhancing the security of citizens with the enactment of the Police Complaints Act, which provided for an independent investigation where allegations of excessive use of force have been made by any member of the public. Barbados made a recommendation.

51. Maldives expressed understanding for challenges and constraints faced by Saint Lucia as a small island developing state and applauded the commendable progress made. It was pleased to see Saint Lucia had addressed gender equality through numerous initiatives and most notably through education to ensure women achieve higher levels of empowerment. It also congratulated Saint Lucia for its work in ameliorating its health sector, such as through the establishment of the National Action Child Protection Committee in 2012; and further commended the introduction of the Single Mothers in Life Enhancement Skills programme in 2012 and of the National Social Protection Policy in 2015. It appreciated efforts addressing issues related to the education of children. The Maldives made recommendations.

52. Canada noted that Saint Lucia accepted Canada's UPR recommendation to ensure the prompt, thorough investigation of alleged acts of violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation. Canada requested an update on progress in that regard. Canada made recommendations.

53. Chile drew attention to the implementation of social programs for improving the quality of life of Santa Lucians, including the implementation of a vast housing program and the expansion of access to safe water and sanitation. Chile valued the measures to alleviate the discrimination against the LGBT population. Chile made recommendations.

54. Colombia noted the commitment of Saint Lucia to implement the recommendations received during the first cycle of the UPR and welcomed the establishment, in 2012, of the National Action Committee for the Protection of the Child. It also praised the work to create a universal health insurance. Colombia made available to Saint Lucia its experience in the field of human rights. Colombia made recommendations.

55. Costa Rica recognized the economic and institutional constraints faced by Saint Lucia to meet many of its international obligations and welcomed the constructive spirit of the Government during the UPR exercise. It expressed concern about the under-representation of women in political decision-making positions and the weakness of the justice system which should be strengthened within the framework of a progressive development of human rights institutions. Costa Rica considered that Saint Lucia could benefit from the technical assistance and cooperation with the universal human rights system and hoped that the Government would gradually further interact with it, for instance, through ratifications of international human rights agreements to which it is not a party yet. Costa Rica made recommendations.

56. Cuba thanked Saint Lucia for the presentation of the national report which showed the commitment of the authorities with the UPR. Cuba welcomed the efforts of Saint Lucia to further improve the economic, social and cultural rights of the population such as the adoption of a policy of food security aimed at reducing hunger and providing greater access to affordable, nutritious and quality food; the policy and national strategic action plan for housing and the continued implementation of the public assistance program. Cuba noted the country's progress in the empowerment of women and the increased efforts to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and the elderly. Cuba made recommendations.

57. Denmark commended Saint Lucia for its engagement in the UPR process and for having demonstrated progress in the protection and promotion of human rights since its last review. Denmark noted that Saint Lucia during its first UPR took note of recommendations to ratify CAT. Denmark still held the strong hope that Saint Lucia would join the 158 current State Parties to that Convention. Denmark welcomed the engagement of Saint Lucia in the recent seminar in Costa Rica organized by the Convention against Torture Initiative, and hoped that the initiative - which worked through government to government exchange and cooperation - could continue being useful to the Government of Saint Lucia in advancing on that issue. Denmark made recommendations.

58. Djibouti welcomed progress made in the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Saint Lucia during previous UPR and noted the human rights achievements. It encouraged Saint Lucia to implement its National Strategic Plan for Health. Djibouti made recommendations.

59. Ecuador commended the ratification of OP-CRC-SC and the policies to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and seniors. Ecuador also praised the Government's efforts to combat extreme poverty, in particular the 2014 policy on food security and nutrition, providing greater access to affordable, nutritious, safe and quality food. Ecuador made recommendations.

60. France made a statement and recommendations.

61. Georgia welcomed the signature of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the Government of Saint Lucia. Georgia also welcomed the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged Saint Lucia to ratify it. Georgia commended the efforts of the Government to address difficulties related to access to food. Georgia made recommendations.

62. Germany commended Saint Lucia for ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the CRC and for its efforts to introduce various bills as part of the Family Law and Domestic Violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Germany expressed concern that consensual sexual activities between adults of the same sex continued to be illegal under the law, even though there seemed to have been no convictions in the recent past. Germany considered it unfortunate that Saint Lucia had failed to raise public awareness about discrimination against people on the ground of their sexual orientation, despite accepting a recommendation to do so during its last UPR. Germany made recommendations.

63. Ghana applauded Saint Lucia for accepting many of the recommendations to ratify a number of important treaties during its last UPR cycle, such as the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Ghana was concerned at reported allegations of extra-judicial killings by the police as well as gender-based violence and discrimination against women. Ghana made recommendations.

64. Guatemala welcomed the establishment, in 2012, of the National Action Committee for the Protection of the Child, the adoption, in 2010, of the Law to combat Trafficking and the adoption, in 2014, of a policy of food security and nutrition. Guatemala shared CRC's view regarding the importance of having an independent human rights national monitoring mechanism in accordance with the Paris Principles. Guatemala stressed CRC's concern on the situation of children of foreign migrants, especially undocumented immigrants, as well as the obstacles and discrimination that they could be subject to. Guatemala made recommendations.

65. Haiti applauded Saint Lucia's hard work, given resource constraints, in the advancement of human rights. It made recommendations.

66. Indonesia commended Saint Lucia for ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Palermo Protocol as well as for considering the establishment of the National Task Force on Trafficking of Persons. Indonesia noted the challenges facing the Government and noted the efforts made to combat acts of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, which had become a national priority. Indonesia made recommendations.

67. The Saint Lucian delegation highlighted that the Government had ratified or acceded to five international instruments that were the object of recommendations during the first review. It recognized a number of ratifications were still outstanding and expressed the Government's full commitment to complete them within due course. Saint Lucia would continue welcoming the input of friendly member States to support its efforts towards ratification.

68. Concerning the rights of the child, the delegation reiterated Saint Lucia's commitment and continued efforts towards ensuring that every child was protected and treated equally.

69. Saint Lucia appreciated comments made by delegations in recognizing its limitations and called upon support and cooperation of member States to ensure achieving full implementation.

70. Ireland appreciated targeted training and awareness-raising campaigns regarding child sexual abuse and gender equality. It urged Saint Lucia to ratify several core human rights treaties and to request technical assistance to overcome capacity constraints. It urged Saint Lucia to extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures and to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. It was concerned about reports of extrajudicial killings and by the retention of the role played by police officers in the Police Complaints Bill in determining complaints against the police. Ireland recognized the legal and constitutional reform. It encouraged further steps to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and to decriminalise consensual same-sex relations. Ireland made recommendations.

71. Jamaica noted efforts made in improving access to food, water and housing. It commended Saint Lucia for its determination to address issues related to the reporting and coordination of human rights, by soliciting assistance from UNDP. It applauded initiatives such as the introduction of recorded testimonies of vulnerable witnesses via video link; the planned introduction of a Police "Use of Force Policy"; launching a Child Disability Grant; and establishing a Vulnerable Persons Team within the Police and a National Health Helpline. Jamaica commended Saint Lucia for its utilisation of regional mechanisms in pursuing its human rights agenda, which demonstrates confidence in expertise available in the Caribbean region and augurs well for the continued sharing of best practices. Jamaica made recommendations.

72. Brazil congratulated Saint Lucia for joining, in 2014, the Zero Hunger Challenge in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Brazilian Government. Brazil believed Saint Lucia was on the right path by gearing its agricultural production to food security, involving all relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Brazil was pleased that Saint Lucia had signed important human rights instruments such as the Palermo Protocol, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that it had ratified two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of Child. Brazil made recommendations.

73. Mexico welcomed the social policy towards vulnerable groups, while recognizing the resources' constraints faced by the Government. Mexico welcomed the adoption of the policy of food security and acknowledged the challenges faced by Saint Lucia. It noted the efforts to modernize the health infrastructure, and to improve access to housing and water

supply services. Mexico praised the implementation of the Labour Code as well as the process of drafting of bills related to the rights of children and domestic violence. Mexico urged Saint Lucia to continue these efforts to strengthen the legal system. Mexico welcomed the information provided during the interactive dialogue on the parliamentary debate on the death penalty. It made recommendations.

74. Montenegro commended efforts made to strengthen the institutional and strategic human rights framework. It welcomed activities to restrain domestic and gender based violence through the establishment of a Women Support Center for victims, and awareness raising campaigns and training programs empowering children and victims to report cases of sexual offences. In this context, it appreciated the broad multisectoral approach. Montenegro noted concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and asked Saint Lucia whether action had been undertaken to effectively monitor the implementation of child labour laws and places of work, and towards effective prosecution and punishment of child exploitation. Montenegro welcomed continued efforts with regards to health. It made recommendations.

75. Morocco welcomed the importance given by Saint Lucia to the socio-economic issues of combatting poverty. It noted with appreciation the efforts made towards gender equality; a better access to education and vocational training for rural women; the protection of women victims of domestic violence and improved access to free basic health care for rural women. Morocco made recommendations.

76. Namibia noted the challenges in realizing the right to clean drinking water and wished Saint Lucia success in realizing the joint initiative with Mexico to improve the water situation. It noted the signature of the ICCPR in 2011 and encouraged Saint Lucia to speed up its ratification. Namibia commended efforts to reduce and eradicate poverty and hunger, especially the Short Term Employment Program and feasibility studies on implementing the 'Zero Hunger' challenge. Namibia made recommendations.

77. The Netherlands expressed concern about the call made by some politicians for a return of the death penalty in light of rising crime rates. It welcomed the importance attached to women's rights, whilst being concerned that same-sex sexual activities between adults continue to be discriminated and criminalised. The Netherlands made recommendations.

78. Nicaragua highlighted the progress to increase the quality of life of Saint Lucia's citizens, including housing and sanitation programs, and the policies on food security and nutrition, employment and social protection. Nicaragua encouraged the Government to continue working on universal access to human rights in order to eliminate any discrimination among the most vulnerable groups. Nicaragua made recommendations.

79. Panama welcomed the Government's efforts, with Mexican assistance, to improve the supply of drinking water to the inhabitants of the Dennery district. It noted the 2011 policy and strategic action plan for housing, and the regularization program to solve the challenges associated with the proliferation of unplanned settlements in the country. Panama valued that in August of 2015 Parliament considered a report of constitutional reform that addressed issues such as the death penalty and corporal punishment. Panama made recommendations.

80. Paraguay appreciated the willingness of the Government to follow up on the recommendations accepted during the first UPR. Paraguay considered that the inter-institutional consultation launched to prepare the 2nd UPR was timely and necessary. It welcomed the collaboration with the Governments of Mexico and Brazil to address water and sanitation problems and encouraged Saint Lucia to continue working with other countries and international organizations. It expressed concern over the lack of an NHRI and encouraged the Government to consider the possibility of requesting bilateral or

OHCHR cooperation. Paraguay noted the high number of persons imprisoned before being sentenced and acknowledged the efforts that Saint Lucia had made to address this issue as a priority. Paraguay made recommendations.

81. The Philippines noted with appreciation the ratification of Optional Protocols to the CRC, the accession to the Palermo Protocol and the enactment of legislation to criminalize trafficking in persons. It recognized challenges faced by Saint Lucia as a small island developing state vulnerable to climate change and commended its commitment to work with development partners to advance socio-economic rights. The Philippines appreciated steps taken to address gender parity, including in education, as well as efforts to implement the National Strategic Plan for Health and to introduce reforms in the juvenile justice system. It expressed interest to hear about Saint Lucia's experience in human rights education and training of law enforcement officials. The Philippines made recommendations.

82. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged a more transparent and timely response from Saint Lucia to the IMPACS report into allegations of extra-judicial killings by officers of the Police. It was pleased at the approved 'Use of Force Policy'. It encouraged the government to: continue to develop its human rights training for law enforcement officers; put in place strong channels of oversight, monitoring and communication between police and child protection agencies to develop a more effective response to the abuse of children; and to promote a culture of tolerance and to take concrete domestic action to end all discrimination, including gender-based discrimination and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It made recommendations.

83. The delegation of Saint Lucia acknowledged the comments made by a number of delegations with regard to the impact of climate change. It invited the Working Group to take note of the devastating impact and the devastating effects of climate change on a small island developing State islands like Saint Lucia and the reality that from time to time Governments, like the Government of Saint Lucia, had to prioritize and re-prioritize even in the context of seeking to achieve their international commitments and obligations.

84. The delegation wished to place in record the intention of Saint Lucia to take cognizance of the recommendations made and concerns expressed. It considered a privilege to participate in the UPR review process and viewed it as a fundamental instrument for securing and safeguarding the human rights of all the citizens of the island.

85. The delegation recalled that Saint Lucia was a young democracy, only 36 years old, which was at a critical stage of its democratic development. The incorporation of the people centred 2030 agenda and the process of reforming the constitution would impact every citizen in Saint Lucia. The Government's yardstick for measuring the success of these processes was to ensure that the benefits to be derived would always be within the reach of its people, for this generation and generations to come.

86. It was the hope of the delegation that following the review, there would be an opportunity to engage the international community inclusive of UN Agencies on ways and means to assist Saint Lucia in mitigating some of its challenges.

87. The Universal Periodic Review was a useful mechanism to assist Saint Lucia in keeping track of the work that it had already engaged in and highlight areas where obstacles slowed it down.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations-

88. The following recommendations will be examined by Saint Lucia which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 31st session of the Human Rights Council in March 2016:

- 88.1. Ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not a party and bring its internal legal framework into line with international obligations (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 88.2. Strengthen its efforts to accede to international instruments to which Saint Lucia is not a party yet and strengthen its cooperation with the universal system of human rights in order to promote compliance with its obligations in this area, as previously recommended (Mexico);
- 88.3. Continue considering the ratification of the main human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Nicaragua);
- 88.4. Complete the internal procedure necessary for the ratification of ICCPR and CRPD, while putting in place the necessary mechanisms to proceed with the signature and ratification of other international human rights agreements that are still pending (Spain);
- 88.5. Ratify human rights conventions including ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT and OP-CAT (Sierra Leone);
- 88.6. Fully implement accepted recommendations from the first UPR concerning the ratification of ICCPR and its Optional Protocols, ICESCR and its Optional Protocol, as well as the accession to their inquiry and interstate complaints procedures, and CRPD (France);
- 88.7. Consider expediting steps to ratify the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and the CRPD, which are treaties that Saint Lucia accepted in the first cycle review to become a party to (Ghana);
- 88.8. Progress in the process of ratification of ICCPR, CRPD and the Optional Protocol to the CRC signed in 2011 (Chile);
- 88.9. Ratify core international human rights instruments, including ICCPR and its Optional Protocols, ICESCR, and CAT and its Optional Protocol (Germany);
- 88.10. Ratify and implement the remaining core human rights treaties, in particular ICESCR, ICCPR and CAT, as previously recommended (Slovenia);
- 88.11. Swiftly ratify ICCPR and CRPD (Portugal);
- 88.12. Ratify ICCPR (Georgia, Paraguay);
- 88.13. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);
- 88.14. Ratify the second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Uruguay);
- 88.15. Establish a formal moratorium with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);

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- 88.16. Sign the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR as well as establish a moratorium on executions with a view to formally abolishing the death penalty (Portugal);
- 88.17. Ratify and implement CRPD (Australia);
- 88.18. Consider ratifying CRPD (Morocco);
- 88.19. Consider ratifying OP-CRPD (Ecuador);
- 88.20. Ratify ICESCR (Algeria);
- 88.21. Accede to ICESCR (Paraguay);
- 88.22. Ratify CAT and its Optional Protocol, as well as ICESCR (Chile);
- 88.23. Ratify CAT and its Optional Protocol (Costa Rica) (Guatemala) (Uruguay);
- 88.24. Ratify the CAT (Denmark) (Montenegro);
- 88.25. Further strengthen the efforts to combat acts of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including to consider the ratification of the UN Convention against Torture (Indonesia);
- 88.26. Ratify ICPPED (Uruguay);
- 88.27. Consider ratifying ICPPED (Argentina);
- 88.28. Ratify ICRMW (Guatemala);
- 88.29. Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 88.30. Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC (Portugal);
- 88.31. Take legislative measures to fully implement the provisions of the CEDAW (Namibia);
- 88.32. Bring its laws in line with CRC (Portugal);
- 88.33. Strengthen implementation of its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child by adopting legislation based on the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States model Children (Care and Adoption) Bill, model Status of Children Bill, and model Child Justice Bill (Canada);
- 88.34. Remove, in the process of legal and constitutional reform, any legal distinction between children born in and outside of marriage; amend its law to ensure that no person may be sentenced to the death penalty for a crime alleged to have been committed as a child; and prohibit corporal punishment in school and care settings as well as in detention (Ireland);
- 88.35. Take legislative measures to ensure non-discrimination against children in all settings and fully implement the provisions of the CRC (Namibia);
- 88.36. Set up a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);
- 88.37. Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Guatemala) (Mexico);
- 88.38. Establish a human rights institution (Algeria);

- 88.39. Take the necessary measures for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (Paraguay);
- 88.40. Continue its efforts in establishing a National Human Rights Institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- 88.41. Redouble efforts to secure support from the UN and international organizations in establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Philippines);
- 88.42. Explore diverse options to improve the coordination of human rights, including, but not limited to, the establishment of a single mechanism such as an NHRI (Jamaica);
- 88.43. Strengthen the office of the Ombudsman in the protection of the rights of nationals (Barbados);
- 88.44. Continue to successfully promote human rights by reinforcing and increasing the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsman (Haiti);
- 88.45. Provide the National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) with sufficient authority and resources to effectively implement and coordinate comprehensive, coherent and consistent child rights policies (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 88.46. Continue its efforts towards protecting the rights of women and children (Morocco);
- 88.47. Extend a standing invitation to the United Nations Special Procedures for human rights (Guatemala);
- 88.48. Seek financial and technical assistance from international sources, including from the OHCHR for implementing international human rights obligations and for facilitating human rights training and education (Sierra Leone);
- 88.49. Continue to avail itself of bilateral and international partnerships, including with various United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, in areas which prove beneficial to the country (Bahamas);
- 88.50. Intensify its direct engagement with the OHCHR in order to ensure that the country receives coherent, appropriate, tailor-made assistance from the UN as a whole (Jamaica);
- 88.51. Engage closely with civil society in the follow-up on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 88.52. Establish a system for monitoring international recommendations (Paraguay);
- 88.53. Enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society (South Africa);
- 88.54. Mainstream gender equality policies in the education sector, ensuring that gender issues and sensitivity training become an integral, substantive and mandatory component of all teacher training at all levels (South Africa);
- 88.55. Review the effectiveness of government mechanisms intended to support the achievement of gender equality (South Africa);

- 88.56. Systematically adopt policies that promote gender equality in the education sector and ensure that gender issues are included in education as an integral, substantive and mandatory component of the training of teachers and students in all levels (Panama);
- 88.57. Take active measures to review its national legislation with the aim of eliminating existing gender based discriminatory provisions (Namibia);
- 88.58. Ensure the implementation of gender equality policies, including through mainstreaming gender equality training in the education sector (Slovenia);
- 88.59. Strengthen the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (France);
- 88.60. Adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and repeal all legal provisions criminalizing sexual acts between consenting adults of the same sex (Slovenia);
- 88.61. Repeal all legislation which may discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Australia);
- 88.62. Introduce legal and practical measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex persons, including by raising public awareness of the issue, by passing appropriate anti-discrimination legislation and by repealing discriminatory legislation (Germany);
- 88.63. Take effective measures towards the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, and holding accountable individuals responsible for acts of violence committed against LGBTI persons (Brazil);
- 88.64. Engage with civil society organisations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons to implement education on human rights and anti-discrimination awareness raising programmes, as well as reviewing legislation that is discriminatory to LGBTI and arbitrarily interferes with the right to privacy, as it encourages stigmatisation of LGBTI persons (Netherlands);
- 88.65. Implement the recommendations of its Constitutional Reform Committee and establish separate legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (Canada);
- 88.66. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Spain);
- 88.67. Decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults by reforming the penal code (United States of America);
- 88.68. Repeal laws and Penal Code provisions prohibiting and punishing consenting sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Uruguay);
- 88.69. Repeal all provisions criminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex, and incorporate sexual orientation as a basis for unlawful discrimination in all areas of labour legislation (Chile);
- 88.70. Carry out campaigns of awareness and promotion of social change in relation to non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation aimed, inter alia, to avoid homophobic aggression (Spain);

- 88.71. Carry out education and awareness raising programs on the human rights of LGBTI persons (Uruguay);
- 88.72. Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to the definitive elimination of the death penalty from the legislation (Spain);
- 88.73. Take measures aimed at the abolition of the death penalty in law and commit to this abolition at the international level, particularly by voting in favour of General Assembly resolutions prescribing a moratorium on this punishment (France);
- 88.74. Take concrete steps aiming at abolishing the death penalty and, in the meantime, establish a moratorium to the practice, while engaging in awareness-raising campaigns on human rights, with a particular emphasis on the incompatibility between the death penalty and human rights (Brazil);
- 88.75. Continue its efforts to adopt necessary measures to abolish the death penalty (Mexico);
- 88.76. Take all necessary steps to formally abolish the death penalty (Netherlands);
- 88.77. Formally declare the moratorium or abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);
- 88.78. Implement legislative measures to ensure that persons under 18 years cannot be subject to receiving the death penalty (Costa Rica);
- 88.79. Adequately implement its legislative framework addressing domestic and sexual violence, ensuring the inclusion of provisions on marital rape, as well as a specific definition of violence against women, as distinct from intra-family, family or domestic violence (Portugal);
- 88.80. Continue with the awareness campaigns against gender discrimination, domestic violence and sexual assault and establish mechanisms to effectively act against this sort of aggressions (Spain);
- 88.81. Implement the recommendations of the Director of Public Prosecutions and adopt legislation allowing for prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence without victim-lodged complaints (Canada);
- 88.82. Enact law to allow government authorities to independently prosecute alleged perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence (Haiti);
- 88.83. Continue its efforts to combat domestic violence and gender-based violence (Colombia);
- 88.84. Adopt measures reinforcing the fight against domestic violence (France);
- 88.85. Take legal and practical steps to protect women and children from domestic violence, for example by prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home (Germany);
- 88.86. Take all necessary measures to eliminate, in law and in practice, violence against women and corporal punishment of boys and girls (Mexico);
- 88.87. Take all the necessary measures to finalize the draft law related to domestic violence and children's rights, and submit it to the Council of Ministers for its adoption (Panama);

- 88.88. Better protect women and children from violence, including by: reviewing child protection systems; amending the Criminal Code to include a provision on marital rape; and prosecuting all alleged perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 88.89. Continue to strengthen its human rights infrastructure by adopting legislation and programs that would protect women and children from domestic violence and other forms of abuse, in line with international standards (Philippines);
- 88.90. Increase efforts to seek assistance in establishing a centralized data registry, especially data on violence against women and children (Haiti);
- 88.91. Continue its efforts to ensure that all cases of child sexual abuse are reported before the justice, as well as the offer of complaint procedures that are effective, easily accessible and of a confidential nature for the victims (Argentina);
- 88.92. Take steps to combat child abuse and child labour (Armenia);
- 88.93. Strengthen its efforts to combat sexual exploitation of and sexual violence against children (Djibouti);
- 88.94. Adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children, as previously recommended (Slovenia);
- 88.95. Implement measures to prohibit corporal punishment of children in schools (Costa Rica);
- 88.96. Ensure the implementation of child labour laws, including by strengthening effective monitoring (Slovenia);
- 88.97. Adopt additional measures and programmes to prevent child labour (Slovenia);
- 88.98. Review criminal justice procedures in order to reduce the length of detention without trial by undertaking a comprehensive review of remand cases and giving priority to the establishment of new Halls of Justice before the date of the next review (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 88.99. Investigate fully the reported extrajudicial killings by the Police and bring any persons found guilty to justice (Sierra Leone);
- 88.100. Provide oversight to ensure investigation and prosecution as appropriate against police officers alleged to have been involved in extrajudicial killings (United States of America);
- 88.101. Take urgent measures to investigate all allegations of extra-judicial killings by law enforcement agencies with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice (Ghana);
- 88.102. Establish a special committee to oversee the implementation of the IMPACS report recommendations (United States of America);
- 88.103. Take immediate and concerted actions to fully investigate and prosecute all reports of extrajudicial killings, including re-examination of investigations disposed of before the CARICOM- Impacs report, in order to hold the perpetrators accountable; and establish mechanisms for fully independent oversight of the police service (Ireland);

- 88.104. Promptly follow up on the findings of the independent investigation into extra-judicial police shootings over the period of 2010-2011 in order to hold those responsible to account and to ensure rule of law (Canada);
- 88.105. Continue strengthening the sensible programs fighting poverty and social inequality (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 88.106. Promote citizen and community participation in poverty alleviation programs currently being developed (Nicaragua);
- 88.107. Expand and develop its social programs with a special emphasis on the most disadvantaged persons, especially women and children (Chile);
- 88.108. Accelerate efforts under the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, aimed at reducing hunger by increasing access to affordable, nutritious, safe and quality food (Georgia);
- 88.109. Continue implementing the National Policy on Social Protection to ensure that sustainable development in Saint Lucia is inclusive and equitable (Cuba);
- 88.110. Keep its efforts for the proper implementation of social security programs (Ecuador);
- 88.111. Continue consolidating its health system, particularly in the mother-child area (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 88.112. Implement the National Strategic Health Plan in order to ensure that all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to a basic set of effective, efficient and quality health services (Cuba);
- 88.113. Take measures to facilitate the treatment, education, aftercare and social reintegration of drug abusers, as an alternative to deprivation of liberty, and in penitentiary centres (Colombia);
- 88.114. Keep the important impetus given to the National Plan of educational development, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable social sectors (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 88.115. Continue its efforts to further the promotion of education (Djibouti);
- 88.116. Enhance efforts to provide access to quality education for all (Maldives);
- 88.117. Continue its efforts to promote gender equality in the education sector (Colombia);
- 88.118. Adopt and implement a National Policy for persons with disabilities (Maldives);
- 88.119. Adopt and implement a national policy project aimed at persons with disabilities, especially ensuring the effective rights of children with disabilities and their participation in all spheres of society (Panama);
- 88.120. Take into account the rights of children in climate change strategies (Costa Rica);
- 88.121. Continue to develop and implement successful climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and practices (Haiti).

89. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Saint Lucia was headed by the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Menissa Rambally and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Shonari Clarke, Legal Officer, Ministry of External Affairs International Trade and Civil Aviation, Saint Lucia.
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