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**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-fifth session**  
Geneva, 2-13 May 2016

### **Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\***

### **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

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\* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fifth session from 2 to 13 May 2016. The review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 2 May 2016. The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was headed by the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, H.E. Rhonda King. At its 8th meeting held on 6 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Latvia, Mexico and Mongolia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/VCT/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.6/25/VCT/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/VCT/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Liechtenstein, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.<sup>1</sup> Additional questions raised during the dialogue by Costa Rica, Jamaica, Montenegro and Uruguay are summarized in section I.B below.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines looked forward to engaging with the international community during the review process. It hoped to bring a fuller appreciation of the practical challenges faced by Small Island Developing States in fulfilling their human rights obligations.
6. It noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a plural and fully inclusive parliamentary democracy. Over sixty percent of senior positions in Government are held by women. There is an active free press with three weekly and editorially independent newspapers.
7. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines submitted its second cycle Universal Periodic Review report prepared based on community and focus group consultations.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/VCSession25.aspx>

8. Since the last review, it has progressively sought to advance human rights by strengthening its national institutional and legislative legal framework.

9. The present Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was adopted from Britain, at the time of their independence. It guarantees the protection of the right to life, personal liberty, freedom of conscience, expression, association and movement. It provides protection from slavery, torture, inhuman treatment, deprivation of property, arbitrary search or entry, discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, place of origin, political opinions, colour or creed and secures protection of the law, including the right to a fair hearing and presumption of innocence.

10. In 2009, the Government, in collaboration with stakeholders locally and within the diaspora, unsuccessfully attempted Constitutional reform via a referendum. The proposed reforms included the creation of a Human Rights Commission and an Ombudsman, as well as numerous innovations in governance and human rights. Outside of its consideration in the context of Constitutional reform, there have not been any national consultations on the topic of the establishment of a National Human Rights institution.

11. Recognizing their ability to adhere to international human rights standards, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has ratified several key international human rights treaties since its last review. During the recently concluded 31st session of the Human Rights Council, the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines outlined its intention of establishing a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up. The delegation was pleased to inform that Cabinet is now actively considering the proposal, which should be passed very soon. The mechanism will review and expedite compliance with outstanding treaty obligations. Additionally, the delegation reiterated the sentiments expressed by other CARICOM States to the Human Rights Council for an accompanying offer of additional technical and capacity-building support in this regard.

12. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines indicated that as a sovereign State, it must protect the most vulnerable and needy among its population within its existing and available resources. As outlined in their national report, several pieces of forward thinking legislations and policy measures have been introduced. Similarly, within the sub-regional groups such as CARICOM and the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States, there is the added responsibility of attempting to harmonize laws to allow for better regional integration and cooperation. Nevertheless, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines prioritized the enactment of three new pieces of legislations namely a new 2015 Domestic Violence Act, the 2010 Child Care and Adoption Act and the 2011 Status of Children Act aimed at strengthening the domestic legal human rights framework.

13. By ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and complying with the Beijing Platform, the Governments comprising the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States re-committed their quest to eradicate violence against women. The Domestic Violence Act, which was passed in May 2015, is a manifestation of that noble goal.

14. On 19 April 2016, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines launched its National Child Protection Policy Framework in collaboration with UNICEF. The Government has also established a Division strictly for the protection and rehabilitation of children to handle matters of this nature. Similarly, efforts are being made towards the completion of minor amendments and harmonization of existing legislations. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child to provide a national regulatory function to the State's National Machinery on the protection of children nationally has also recently been approved. As outlined in their report, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has implemented a series of measures to monitor and oversee the welfare of juvenile offenders. The Legislation and Policy Framework for Child Justice which seeks to ensure the maximization of this

approach will be tabled for Parliament soon and seeks to provide ample diversion and detention modalities using restorative practices.

15. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also continue to strengthen its national policy framework on gender based violence. There is an ongoing Anti-violence Campaign that commenced in 2014, which focuses on increasing awareness of gender-based violence issues to children and communities. To strengthen support for advancing the cause for an anti-violence campaign, a Victims' Support Program was established to provide psycho-social and socio-economic support to victims.

16. The country continues also to implement forward-looking policies aimed at improving and ensuring an adequate standard of living for all as articulated in the National Report. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to support education and health, including sexual reproductive services.

17. The country continues also to strive to achieve zero hunger and zero undernourishment.

18. Despite the fiscal challenges inherent in the devastating effects of floods and storms over the past 5 years as well as the worldwide economic crisis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines refuses to allow anything to slow its march towards doing the best that it can in the circumstances to ensure that all of its citizens enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms; live in a fair and just society; and realize increased social and economic development.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

19. During the interactive dialogue, 46 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report. All written statements of the delegations, to be checked against delivery on the United Nations Webcast archives,<sup>2</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council when available.<sup>3</sup>

20. The (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) recognized that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had made progress in the incorporation of the gender perspective in health, education, agriculture and social services.

21. Algeria welcomed the improvements achieved since the first review in the fields of domestic violence and discrimination against women, and measures to ensure access for persons with special needs to the mainstream educational system.

22. Argentina praised Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for progress made in the fight against domestic violence. It recalled that the last time a person was sentenced to death in the islands was in 1993.

23. Australia commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for acceding to a range of international human rights instruments and the opening of the Belle Isle prison. It remained concerned by the conditions at the old prison in Kingstown. Australia regretted that that violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons had not been addressed appropriately.

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations Webcast archives at <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/universal-periodic-review/25th-upr/watch/st-vincent-and-the-grenadines-review-25th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/4875358776001>.

<sup>3</sup> Available on the UPR extranet at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/upr/Sessions/25session/StVincentandtheGrenadines/Pages/default.aspx>

24. The Bahamas considered noteworthy the efforts toward ensuring the right to education; the enactment of domestic violence legislation; the inclusion of human rights training in the curriculum of the police force; the construction of a new correctional facility conforming to the Mandela Rules and the priority accorded to poverty eradication.
25. Barbados congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for adopting legislation on domestic violence and for the care and adoption of children. Barbados urged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to establish a national human rights institution.
26. Brazil praised Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for efforts to protect foreigners and citizens from human trafficking and sexual exploitation and the training of police, migration and labour officials on this matter. Brazil encouraged the formal abolition of the death penalty.
27. Canada commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on its passing of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015 and encouraged the country to implement its provisions fully and promptly.
28. Chile welcomed the adoption of the domestic violence and the care and adoption of children acts, the implementation of the poverty reduction plan and human rights training for public officials. Chile also noted the steps taken to establish a mechanism for reporting and monitoring.
29. Colombia stressed the commitment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance in the implementation of the recommendations received during the first cycle, in particular the measures taken in the area of the rights of children and the national plan of action on gender-based violence.
30. Congo noted that the islands were not yet Party to optional protocols to ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC. Congo considered that the international community should provide technical assistance to the country in the area of human rights.
31. Costa Rica was concerned by the absence of an independent electoral body, the underrepresentation of women in elected positions and the delay on reporting to treaty bodies. Costa Rica asked if the possibility of abolishing the death penalty from the national legislation in the near future existed.
32. Cuba commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for passing legislation to address violence against women and for its housing policy. It recognized the challenges faced by Small Islands Developing States and considered it necessary for the international community to provide any assistance that the country would request.
33. Denmark recognized progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the protection and promotion of human rights since its first review. It encouraged the country to take advantage of the expertise provided by the Treaty Bodies, through an increased focus on reporting to the relevant committees.
34. Ecuador recognized the priority given to the eradication of poverty. It welcomed efforts for the implementation of a National Action Plan to fight gender violence that provided greater guarantees to grant interim measures for the protection of victims.
35. Egypt commended the strategy to eliminate discrimination against women, the adoption of the law to combat domestic violence and efforts to facilitate schooling at the primary and secondary levels. Egypt encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to foster the human rights legislative framework.
36. France welcomed the engagement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the area of human rights and invited the authorities to continue its reforms in order to ensure full respect of human rights in the country.

37. Germany commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its achievements, in particular with regard to the strengthening of the protection of the rights of women and children and encouraged it to continue to invest in those areas.
38. Ghana noted the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and a national action plan to end gender-based violence as well as the establishment of the National Committee of the Rights of the Child. It remained however concerned about reports of violence against women and girls.
39. Greece noted progress achieved in the field of domestic violence, including the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act which broadened the definition of domestic violence and strengthened the child protection mechanisms.
40. Guatemala noted with satisfaction the adoption of the new law on domestic violence but remained concerned that the legislation did not criminalize sexual harassment in all spheres. It indicated that steps should be taken to adopt legislation to fully ensure the principle of gender equality.
41. Haiti noted progress made in the reduction of gender-based violence, the improvement of detention conditions and in ensuring access to adequate housing.
42. Honduras noted the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act, as well in achieving universal access to primary and secondary education and efforts to guarantee cultural diversity and the protection of cultural heritages.
43. Responding to comments, the delegation indicated that it wished to acknowledge first the development assistance the country has received from Cuba and Venezuela. It referred in particular to assistance from Cuba in the area of healthcare. Cuba has helped the country with the construction of a hospital, has loaned them doctors and nurses, provided training and ophthalmic services. Both Cuba and Venezuela have also been major contributors to the construction of the soon-to-be opened international airport, and both have contributed to the success of their education revolution.
44. While thanking delegations for their comments and recommendations made so far, the delegation wished to address some of the issues raised.
45. With respect to same-sex relationships, the delegation indicated that these provisions have existed for long time and that the precepts underlying them have overwhelming public support in their Christian society, which adopts Judeo-Christian values in the Caribbean context. The delegation however acknowledged that changes in these values are occurring particularly among sections of the young people, largely as a consequence of influences from outside. This matter therefore is always under review. We must appreciate however all these national sensitivities within the context of the existing value system. It is important however to note that there has been no incidence of imprisonment. To conclude, there is currently no public or legislative appetite to revise any of the laws that prohibit sexual activities between consenting adults.
46. Referring to comments made by one delegation on the need to implement legislation to protect LGBTI persons against violence, the delegation reiterated that every citizen in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is afforded protection against violence. The Constitution and existing criminal laws ensure this.
47. With respect to the judicial inroads into the death penalty and the moratorium on the death penalty that was recommended, the delegation indicated that it would be hard to support a moratorium at this time. The Constitution enshrines the constitutionality and legitimacy of the death penalty within the Vincentian context. It is a sentence whose legality has been affirmed, reaffirmed and recognised by countless appellate courts over the years, up to and including Britain's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. It is supported

by the overwhelming majority of citizens, as evidenced by opinion polls, public consultations, and the statements of the governing and opposition political parties. To be sure, the sentence is limited to the most serious crimes committed in the country, and, even then, is rarely carried out. It is nonetheless a valid component of their body of laws, as enshrined in the penal code and upheld in the Constitution. The delegation also noted that the common law has shaped the current state of the death penalty in the country. The Privy Council has said that if someone is on death penalty for more than 5 years, their sentence must be commuted to life. It is almost impossible to complete all appeals to the highest courts including international bodies within 5 years. As such, persons sentenced to death are essentially, in practical terms, being given life sentences. Additionally, the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the final Court of Appeal, affirmed that the death penalty can only be invoked in cases that can be described as the worst of the worst. The delegation also noted that since 1993 no one has been put to death.

48. Regarding comments made on the Kampala Amendments and delays in meeting reporting obligations, the delegation noted that unfortunately, capacity is a major issue for a small country. Recognizing the dire need to increase its legislative output, the government has recently funded two students to complete legislative drafting training at the Masters level. It is hoped that this increased capacity will assist Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in being able to ratify international agreements with greater speed. It noted however that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has nonetheless ensured that in a practical way the human rights commitments contained in the various international treaties are implemented.

49. With regard to corporal punishment, the delegation wished to refer to information contained in paragraph 38 of the national report. It noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has taken steps to reduce the rigidity by which corporal punishment is administered in the school system through the revised Education Act of 2009, whereby only a Principal or Head Teacher can administer punishment to a student. An amendment is also proposed in the drafted Child Justice Bill which addresses alternative forms of punishment and rewards using restorative practices and diversion for juveniles in conflict with the law.

50. Indonesia welcomed progress made since the first review. It noted that despite the financial challenges, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continued to take measures to advance social security, education and healthcare standards.

51. Italy commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its commitment to protecting the rights of women and children, including the adoption of the Children Care and Adoption Act, and the Domestic Violence Act.

52. Jamaica asked about the delegation's views on a concern raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights that textbooks developed at the Caribbean level, continued to have a "European perspective" and did not sufficiently reflect the specific history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

53. Malaysia noted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' commitment to improve the human rights situation as well as constrains and challenges the country had been facing.

54. The Maldives welcomed Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' efforts to implement recommendations of the first review, despite challenges as a fellow Small Island Developing State. Maldives urged the country to continue seeking technical support from the United Nations and international community.

55. Mexico welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and a plan of action to end the gender-based violence. It further welcomed efforts to mainstream gender in various areas and the establishment of a national committee for the protection of children.



56. Montenegro highlighted achievements in reducing hunger and under-nourishment. Montenegro asked about actions taken to establish rehabilitation programmes and support services for victims of human trafficking, as well prosecution and punishment of offenders.
57. Morocco noted with satisfaction the accession to international human rights treaties during the past six years. It welcomed efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to protect the rights of children and to combat domestic violence.
58. Namibia welcomed the adoption of the 2015 Domestic Violence Act and the national action plan to address gender-based violence. It was pleased to note that the last time the death sentence was carried out in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was in 1993.
59. The Netherlands welcomed efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance women's rights and the rights of the child. It indicated however, that as noted by the CEDAW Committee, there is room for improvement in the protection of rights in same-sex relationships.
60. Nicaragua welcomed improvements in the legal and institutional framework and the implementation of policies and programs aimed at improving the human rights of women and children.
61. Pakistan believed that the Children Act 2011, the National Action plan to end gender-based violence and Domestic Violence Act 2015 would further contribute to the protection and promotion of rights of children and women.
62. Panama recognized efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and their commitment to promote, protect and respect fundamental human rights. It valued the work for the harmonization of national legislation in specific areas.
63. The Philippines acknowledged progress and noted challenges and constraints being faced by the country as a small island developing state that is particularly vulnerable to various global economic shocks. The Philippines called on the international community to extend assistance to the country.
64. Portugal commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for achieving universal access to primary and secondary education. It took note with appreciation of the fact that since 1995 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines applies a *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty.
65. Sierra Leone highlighted the establishment of a poverty reduction strategy and the Domestic Violence Act of 2015. It encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to strengthen its regional collaboration aimed at combating trafficking in persons, to expedite juvenile justice legal reforms, and to maintain its *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty.
66. Slovenia welcomed information on social security measures to assist those in need, particularly the Home Help for the Elderly Program. It further commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their achievements in realizing the right to food and the right to education.
67. South Africa commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular for the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015, as well as the implementation of human rights education campaigns, including a reproductive rights awareness campaign.
68. Spain congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the creation of the National Committee of Children's Rights, the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015 and the signature and ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, such as the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

69. Trinidad and Tobago welcomed measures to submit outstanding reports in connection with human rights obligations, and applauded the engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council through the participation with support from the Voluntary Technical Assistance Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

70. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and efforts in addressing child abuse. It encouraged the country to develop an effective response to juvenile offending to ensure that its laws, policies and practices are in compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

71. The United States of America commended the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in addressing prison conditions. It remained concerned about reports of discrimination and violence against women and LGBTI persons and about reported use of excessive force by police and sex trafficking, including forced prostitution of women and prostitution of impoverished children by their family members.

72. Uruguay inquired about the possibility of designing a strategy for the elimination of stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes that discriminate against women. Uruguay expressed concern that corporal punishment of children remained legal in all environments. It asked about planned steps to align the legislation with the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

73. Algeria welcomed the improvements achieved since the first review in the fields of domestic violence and discrimination against women. It further welcomed the measures to ensure access for persons with special needs to the mainstream educational system.

74. Argentina praised Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for having made progress in the fight against domestic violence and encouraged it to continue taking measures in this area. It also recalled that the last time a person was sentenced to death in the islands, was in 1993.

75. Australia commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for acceding to international human rights instruments and for opening the new Belle Isle prison. It remained concerned by the poor conditions at the old prison in Kingstown. Australia regretted that that violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons had not been addressed appropriately.

76. The Bahamas, recognizing the constraints faced by a small island developing State, considered noteworthy the efforts toward ensuring the right to education, the enactment of domestic violence legislation, the inclusion of human rights training in the curriculum of the police force and the construction of a new correctional facility conforming to the Mandela Rules and the priority accorded to poverty eradication.

77. Barbados congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for adopting legislation on domestic violence and for the care and adoption of children. It noted the large number of human rights instruments acceded by the islands, while indicating being aware of the constraints faced by small states regarding reporting obligations. Barbados urged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to establish a national human rights institution.

78. Brazil praised Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its efforts to protect foreigners and citizens from human trafficking and sexual exploitation and for the 2014 awareness raising campaign and training program for police, migration and labour officials on this matter. Brazil welcomed that the country had de facto abolished the death penalty and encouraged it to formally abolish it.

79. Canada commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on its passing of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015 and encouraged the country to implement its provisions fully and promptly.

80. Chile praised that the institutional and legal framework of the islands had been strengthened. It welcomed the adoption of the domestic violence act, the care and adoption of children act, the implementation of the plan to reduce poverty and the human rights training programs for public officials. Chile noted the steps taken to establish a mechanism for reporting and monitoring.

81. Colombia stressed the commitment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance in the implementation of the recommendations received during the first UPR cycle, in particular the measures taken in the area of the rights of children and the national plan of action on gender-based violence.

82. The Republic of Congo praised Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for establishing human rights institutions and mechanisms and adopting international instruments in this area. Congo noted that the islands were not yet party to optional protocols to ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC. The Congo considered that the international community should provide technical assistance to the country in the area of human rights.

83. Costa Rica welcomed the adoption of legislation on gender violence and in the field of childhood, as well as the importance attached to human rights education and training. It was concerned by the absence of an independent electoral body, the underrepresentation of women in elected positions and the delay on reporting to treaty bodies. Costa Rica asked if the possibility of abolishing the death penalty from the national legislation in the near future existed.

84. Cuba commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for passing legislation to address violence against women and for its housing policy. It recognized the challenges faced by Small Islands Developing States. It considered it was therefore necessary for the international community to contribute to the development of the country and to provide any assistance that the country would request.

85. Denmark recognized that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had demonstrated progress in the protection and promotion of human rights since its first review. It commended the country for having ratified the core UN human rights conventions and encouraged it to take advantage of the expertise provided by the Treaty Bodies, through an increased focus on reporting to the relevant committees.

86. Ecuador recognized the priority given to the eradication of poverty with a social development plan. Ecuador also welcomed the efforts for the implementation of a National Action Plan to fight gender violence that provided greater guarantees to grant interim measures of protection for victims.

87. Egypt welcomed the efforts deployed to improve the human rights situation in the country. It commended the strategy to eliminate discrimination against women, the adoption of the law to combat domestic violence and the efforts to facilitate schooling at the primary and secondary levels. Egypt encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to foster the human rights legislative framework.

88. France welcomed the engagement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the area of human rights and invited the authorities to continue its reforms in order to ensure full respect of human rights in the country.

89. Germany commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular with regard to the strengthening the

protection of the rights of women and children. It encouraged the Government to invest further efforts in those important areas.

90. Ghana noted the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and a national action plan to end gender-based violence as well as the establishment of the National Committee of the Rights of the Child. It remained concerned, however, about reports of violence against women and girls.

91. Greece noted the progress made in socio-economic area and the efforts to sustain the Millennium Development Goals. It also noted the progress achieved in the field of domestic violence, including the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act, which broadened the definition of domestic violence and strengthened the child protection mechanisms.

92. Guatemala noted with satisfaction the adoption of the new law on domestic violence. It stated that steps should be taken to adopt specific legislation to fully ensure the principle of gender equality. Guatemala was concerned that the current legislation did not criminalize sexual harassment in all spheres.

93. Haiti noted progress made in the reduction of gender-based violence, the improvement of detention conditions and in ensuring access to adequate housing.

94. Honduras noted the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act, which broadened the definition of domestic violence. It also noted the progress made in achieving universal access to primary and secondary education and the efforts to guarantee cultural diversity in society and the protection of cultural heritages.

95. Indonesia welcomed the progress made since the first review in promoting and protecting human rights. It noted that despite the financial challenges, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continued to take measures in advancing social security, education and healthcare standards.

96. Italy commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its commitment to protecting the rights of women and children, including the adoption of the Children Care and Adoption Act, and the Domestic Violence Act.

97. Jamaica commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its commitment to improving the quality of life of its citizens and the rights of women and children. Jamaica asked about the delegation's views on a concern raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights that textbooks developed at the Caribbean (regional) level, continued to have a "European perspective" and did not sufficiently reflect the specific history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

98. Malaysia noted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' commitment to improve the human rights situation as well as constrains and challenges the country had been facing in achieving those goals.

99. The Maldives welcomed Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' efforts to implement the recommendations of the first review, despite the challenges faced by the country as a fellow Small Island appreciated the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act. Maldives urged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to continue seeking technical support from the United Nations and international community in the area of human rights.

100. Mexico welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and a plan of action to end the gender-based violence. It invited Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to take measures to fully implement them. Mexico welcomed efforts to mainstream gender in the areas of health care, education, agricultural and social services and the establishment of a national committee for the protection of the rights of the child.

101. Montenegro highlighted the decisive approach of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to poverty reduction and achievements in reducing hunger and under-nourishment. Montenegro asked about actions taken to establish rehabilitation programmes and support services for victims of human trafficking, as well prosecution and punishment of offenders.

102. Morocco noted with satisfaction the accession of six international human rights treaties during the past six years. It welcomed efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to protect the rights of children, including the establishment of a national committee for the rights of children, and to combat domestic violence, in particular the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act.

103. Namibia welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015 and the national action plan geared towards ending gender-based violence. It was pleased to note that the last time the death sentence was carried out in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was in 1993.

104. The Netherlands welcomed the efforts Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has put in advancing women's human rights and the rights of the child by introducing the Domestic Violence Act in 2015. It noted however, that as the CEDAW Committee noted, there is room for improvement for the protection of rights in same-sex relationships.

105. Nicaragua commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for progress achieved since the last review. It welcomed the reforms and improvements in the juridical and institutional framework and the implementation of policies and programs aimed at improving the human rights of women and children.

106. Pakistan appreciated the adoption of legislation for strengthening protection of human rights as well as accession of international human rights instruments. It believed that the Children Act 2011, the National Action plan to end gender-based violence and Domestic Violence Act 2015 would further contribute to the protection and promotion of rights of children and women.

107. Panama recognized efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and their commitment to promote, protect and respect fundamental human rights. It valued the work for the harmonization of national legislation in specific areas.

108. The Philippines acknowledged progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since its last review. It noted challenges and constraints being faced by the country as a small island developing state that is particularly vulnerable to various global economic shocks. Philippines called on the international community to extend the needed assistance for the country to support its initiatives and programmes.

109. Portugal commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for achieving universal access to primary and secondary education. It took note with appreciation of the fact that since 1995 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines applies a *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty.

110. Sierra Leone highlighted the establishment of a poverty reduction strategy and the Domestic Violence Act of 2015. It encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to strengthen its regional collaboration aimed at combating trafficking in persons, to expedite legal reforms in the area of juvenile justice, including raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 and to maintain its *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty.

111. Slovenia welcomed information on social security measures taken to assist those in need, particularly the Home Help for the Elderly Program. It further commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their achievements in realizing the right to food and the right to education.

112. South Africa commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular for the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015, as well as the implementation of human rights education campaigns, including a reproductive rights awareness campaign.

113. Spain congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their proactive attitude in the field of human rights, as reflected in the creation of the National Committee of Children's Rights, the recent adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015 and the recent signature and ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, such as the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

114. Trinidad and Tobago welcomed measures to submit outstanding reports in connection with various human rights obligations, and applauded the engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council through the participation in the Voluntary Technical Assistance Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

115. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the adoption of the new Domestic Violence Act and the reinforcement of efforts in addressing the problems of child abuse. It encouraged the country to develop an effective response to juvenile offending to ensure that its laws, policies and practices are in compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

116. The United States of America commended the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in addressing prison conditions. It remained concerned about reports of discrimination and violence against women and LGBTI persons, about reported continuing use of excessive force by police and reports of sex trafficking, including the forced prostitution of women and the prostitution of impoverished children by their family members.

117. Uruguay inquired about the possibility of designing a strategy for elimination stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes that discriminate against women. Uruguay expressed concern that corporal punishment of children remained legal in all environments. It asked the delegation about concrete planned steps to align the legislation with the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

118. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanked again all states that submitted questions in advance, as well as for the valuable contributions made during their second review. It noted that the constructive comments and kind support would be useful in their common quest towards further promoting and protection human rights for all in the country.

119. The delegation thanked the members of the Troika for their support throughout the entire review process, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for producing the various compilations that guided the review.

120. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines acknowledged that there are still some gaps that require additional attention. Since the last review, it has progressively sought to improve human rights by strengthening its national and legislative legal framework in an all-inclusive approach.

121. Referring to comments made by one delegation to introduce legislation on promoting gender equality in employment, the delegation advised that efforts are on-going. Reference was made to an Equal Pay Act which requires equal pay for equal work performed by man and women. The Protection of Employment Act further stipulates that an employer shall not dismiss an employee based on sex, marital status, pregnancy or maternity leave. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines plans to introduce social protection legislation to remove all social status barriers and stigmas from individuals based on their socio-economic conditions or status. The delegation referred also to the Legislation and

Policy Framework for Child Justice which seeks to ensure the maximization of this approach and which will be tabled before Parliament soon. This legislation seeks to provide ample diversion and detention modalities using restorative practices.

122. The delegation further noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will closely consult civil society and other stakeholders in the follow-up, as they had done in preparing for the review.

123. Responding to a question from Jamaica on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines view on a concern raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights that textbooks developed in the Caribbean continue to have an European perspective and do not sufficiently reflect the specific history of the country, the delegation agreed that there were not enough textbooks reflecting the specific history of the country. It noted that as a member of the Caribbean community, several textbooks developed in the Caribbean with a focus on the history of the Commonwealth Caribbean broadly, are utilized in the schools. It noted however that it is their hope that as investment into education continues, the country will publish at an even higher rate regionally.

124. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines further affirmed its commitment to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as enshrined in their Constitution. With these fundamentals in mind, and having regard to the ever evolving human rights norms and standards, the delegation noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recommits itself to ensuring that the human rights of the citizens are protected.

125. The country is fully committed to cooperating with the international community and the international human rights mechanisms, especially the UPR process. It noted that the questions, comments and recommendations received were very valuable to them in the process of human rights self-assessment. The delegation welcomed the constructive spirit in which the recommendations were given and offered to carefully and seriously consider each of them.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\*

126. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below will be examined by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council in September 2016.**

126.1. **Ratify all international instruments concerning human rights (Congo);**

126.2. **Consider ratifying international human rights treaties that it is not yet a State Party (Philippines);**

126.3. **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Portugal);**

126.4. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (Italy);**

126.5. **Accede to or ratify the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which promotes international commitment in abolishing the death penalty (Honduras);**

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\*\* The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

- 126.6. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as to bring legislation into conformity with the de facto situation (Netherlands);
- 126.7. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Uruguay);
- 126.8. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the formal abolition of the death penalty in the country (Portugal);
- 126.9. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and abolish the death penalty in the domestic legislation (Mexico);
- 126.10. Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR with a view to abolish the death penalty (Namibia);
- 126.11. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Spain);
- 126.12. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Ghana) (Portugal);
- 126.13. Ratify CEDAW, taking into account the situation of victims of domestic violence in the country (Brazil);
- 126.14. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (Spain);
- 126.15. Advance in the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CAT (Chile);
- 126.16. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT (Costa Rica) (Denmark) (Ghana) (Guatemala) (Honduras) (Uruguay) (Portugal) (Italy);
- 126.17. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on a communications procedure (Uruguay) (Portugal);
- 126.18. Accede to the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador);
- 126.19. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) (Sierra Leone) (Ghana);
- 126.20. Ratify the already signed ICPPED (Spain);
- 126.21. Ratify ILO Convention No. 169 (Sierra Leone);
- 126.22. Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (Sierra Leone);
- 126.23. Submit its first report to the Committee against Torture which is overdue since 2002 (Denmark);
- 126.24. Submit long overdue reports to CESCR, CERD, CAT and CRPD (Sierra Leone);
- 126.25. Extend standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders (Montenegro);
- 126.26. Extend an open and standing invitation to Special Rapporteurs and Representatives with a view to making progress in the fulfilment of human rights commitments made (Panama);
- 126.27. Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures (Slovenia);



- 126.28. Continue to seek the needed technical assistance to enable it to meet its various human rights commitments (Sierra Leone);
- 126.29. Pursue its efforts to harmonize its national legislation with international human rights standards (Morocco);
- 126.30. Harmonize its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including measures of cooperation with the Court and to investigate the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (Costa Rica);
- 126.31. Take appropriate steps to facilitate the adoption of legislation on gender equality (Maldives);
- 126.32. Adopt, without delay, a new legislation that fully incorporates the principle of equality of women and men as well as a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of gender in the public and private spheres (Germany);
- 126.33. Step up efforts towards the adoption of legislation fully in line with the principle of gender equality (Greece);
- 126.34. Consider adopting legislation that fully incorporates the principle of equality of women and men, as well as a definition and prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex and gender in the public and private spheres (Namibia);
- 126.35. Amend national legislation to grant women equal rights to men, in regard to passing citizenship to their foreign spouse (Panama)
- 126.36. Reform the legislation on family life, especially the law on legal marriage age, which sets it at 15 years for girls and boys and which should be raised to 18 years, at a minimum (Congo);
- 126.37. Reform laws related to discrimination and violence against women and LGBTI persons, including by repealing provisions which may be used to criminalize consensual, same-sex sexual activity between adults, and establishing a law criminalizing domestic violence (United States of America);
- 126.38. Enact legislation and take necessary measures to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and social status (Mexico);
- 126.39. Enact legislation prohibiting discrimination against LGBTI persons, including removing laws criminalising consensual same sex activity (Australia);
- 126.40. Decriminalize homosexuality and oppose all forms of discrimination and abuse against LGBTI persons (Italy);
- 126.41. Adopt a legislation that criminalizes specifically sexual harassment in all spheres, including in the work place (Guatemala);
- 126.42. Initiate a comprehensive process of legislative reform in order to guarantee equality between men and women as well as to define and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and gender in the public and private spheres (Honduras);
- 126.43. Consider taking steps to decriminalize consensual same sex relations and abolish any discriminatory legislation and practices against LGBTI people (Brazil);

- 126.44. Decriminalize homosexual relations between consenting adults (Spain);
- 126.45. Abolish section 148 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes consensual sexual practices between persons of the same sex, as a step towards decreasing discrimination of same-sex relationships (Netherlands);
- 126.46. Establish a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles (Algeria);
- 126.47. Act to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as per the recommendations from its 2011 UPR appearance (Australia);
- 126.48. Advance in the establishment of a human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);
- 126.49. Establish a human rights institution (Guatemala);
- 126.50. Continue its efforts to strengthen the current National Human Rights Association – established in 1986, in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- 126.51. Step up, with the support of OHCHR and other international partners, the activities to establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Panama);
- 126.52. Take the necessary measures in order to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 126.53. Create a national human rights institution in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national human rights institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) (Uruguay);
- 126.54. Establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms (Guatemala);
- 126.55. Work on setting up a national mechanism for the reporting and the follow up in the framework of the international human rights instruments (Haiti);
- 126.56. Accelerate the establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (Indonesia);
- 126.57. Develop and implement a National Action Plan for Human Rights to further ensure systematic and comprehensive approach for the promotion and protection of human rights, with the full engagement of civil society (Indonesia);
- 126.58. Strengthen the role and capacity to act of the Child Protection Unit with the support and assistance of the international community in order to allow it to fully fulfil its mission (Morocco);
- 126.59. Strengthen its commitment for implementing all its programs and policies in the social sector (Haiti);
- 126.60. Ensure comprehensive human rights training for teachers with a view to preventing any excessive use of force (South Africa);
- 126.61. Put an emphasis on the training of those responsible for the protection of the rights of women and children (Haiti);

- 126.62. **Seek and avail itself of international technical assistance opportunities in training, data collection and analysis, to support national reporting under the international human rights instruments (Bahamas);**
- 126.63. **Enhance gender equality in the public and private sectors (Egypt);**
- 126.64. **Take concrete measures to ensure gender equality in political life, including through the establishment of a quota system for Parliament and Ministries (Algeria);**
- 126.65. **Adopt administrative and legal measures to pursue gender equality in decision-making and elected positions (Costa Rica);**
- 126.66. **Consider the implementation of initiatives aimed at identifying needs on the situation of gender related human rights, in order to acquire information to strengthen the national legislation and public policies in this area (Ecuador);**
- 126.67. **Intensify efforts to end discrimination against women and increase women participation in the Government, in decision making positions and other segments of society (Malaysia);**
- 126.68. **Continue to promote women empowerment (Pakistan);**
- 126.69. **Consider and formulate measures to address the very low representation of women in high-level positions, including in politics, as a priority (Slovenia);**
- 126.70. **Conduct nation-wide educational campaigns about gender roles and the value of women and girls (Slovenia);**
- 126.71. **Adopt legislation on gender equality that fully incorporates the principle of equality between women and men, as well as the definition and prohibition of discrimination based on sex and gender (Uruguay);**
- 126.72. **Take measures to prevent violence and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**
- 126.73. **Consider the abolition of the death penalty in its legal system and proceed with the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Argentina);**
- 126.74. **Abolish in law the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty (France);**
- 126.75. **Step up efforts to abolish the death penalty (Panama);**
- 126.76. **Consider the possibility of the abolition of the death penalty in its statutes (South Africa);**
- 126.77. **Consider establishing a formal moratorium on death penalty (Slovenia);**
- 126.78. **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 126.79. **Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium of capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy);**

- 126.80. **Adopt an official moratorium aiming at the formal abolishment of the death penalty in the country (Portugal);**
- 126.81. **Implement public awareness campaigns in regard to the absence of deterrent effects of the application of the death penalty and the progressive introduction of a moratorium aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Spain);**
- 126.82. **Consider prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings (South Africa);**
- 126.83. **Prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including at home, at schools, and as a sentence in courts and work towards a general understanding that corporal punishment of children is not beneficial but rather detrimental to their development (Germany);**
- 126.84. **Introduce the legislative measures and policies necessary to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of boys and girls, including explicit prohibition of corporal punishment both in public and private spheres, as previously recommended (Mexico);**
- 126.85. **Take the necessary steps to ensure the prison in Kingstown meets international minimum standards and adheres to the Mandela Rules (Australia);**
- 126.86. **Adopt measures to combat the problem of police abuse, through norms aiming at sanctioning such conduct and to prevent such abuses, strengthening the training of law enforcement officials (Spain);**
- 126.87. **Take immediate steps to bring conditions at all detention facilities, including Her Majesty's Prison and Fort Charlotte Prison, into line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Canada);**
- 126.88. **Partner with appropriate international agencies to strengthen national capacities to collect, process, and analyse relevant human rights statistical information concerning police misconduct and prison conditions (United States of America);**
- 126.89. **Strengthen measures taken to combat human trafficking (Egypt);**
- 126.90. **Collaborate with NGOs or other victim advocates to promote a victim-centred approach in the identification of trafficking victims (United States of America);**
- 126.91. **Take measures to reduce the backlog of cases before the courts in order to ensure that justice is served promptly and efficiently and that accused persons are guaranteed due process (Canada);**
- 126.92. **Pursue efforts to reform the justice system with a view to guaranteeing access to justice to all, including through providing qualified staff (Egypt);**
- 126.93. **Undertake actions to improve the competency and capacity of its judicial sector including sensitizing judicial personnel on issues concerning vulnerable groups (Malaysia);**
- 126.94. **Establish a Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre to ensure detention separate from adults and the safety of juvenile offenders whilst in detention and to equip them to be productive citizens on release into society (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

- 126.95. Continue strengthening its successful social programs in favour of its people (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 126.96. Undertake socio-economic development programs that focus on education, job creation and poverty eradication under the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 (Malaysia);
- 126.97. Pursue efforts to promote the right to work with a view to combating unemployment whose rate has reached 18.8 percent (Egypt);
- 126.98. Effectively implement the Zero Hunger Challenge Initiative to reduce hunger and malnutrition (Cuba);
- 126.99. Continue to improve access to education through various programs and initiatives (Pakistan);
- 126.100. Continue and strengthen health education and family life programs, such as education on appropriate sexual and reproductive health for every age, and access to sexual and reproductive health, including contraceptive methods (Colombia);
- 126.101. Combat the high rate of teenage girls' pregnancy, which put at risk their rights to health and education (Congo);
- 126.102. Adopt measures to empower girls and boys to make conscious decisions regarding their health and well-being through mainstreaming of sexual and reproductive health education (Slovenia);
- 126.103. Design and implement measures to allow the exercise of cultural and religious life of ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Rastafari and Garifuna, without obstacles or stigmatization (Colombia);
- 126.104. Recognise the importance of Island of Balliceaux for the Garifuna people as a site of remembrance, and ensure and promote the relations of those people with the Island as noted by the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights (Honduras);
- 126.105. Seek assistance, as appropriate, to support ongoing efforts to preserve its tangible and intangible cultural heritage (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 126.106. Strengthen the implementation of the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence, in cooperation with civil society organizations and other interested parties, and ensure better access to health care and social services for victims, in particular rural women (Colombia);
- 126.107. Combat gender-based violence through its National Action Plan, Domestic Violence Act and anti-violence outreach programs (Malaysia);
- 126.108. Allocate sufficient technical, human and financial resources for the effective implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender-based violence (Philippines);
- 126.109. Promote public awareness and education on provisions under the new Domestic Violence Act of 2015 (Bahamas);
- 126.110. Implement comprehensive guidelines under the Domestic Violence Act to ensure a coordinated response for victims of violence by police, courts, health and social welfare agencies (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 126.111. Undertake a public advocacy campaign to combat gender-based violence, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders (Canada);
- 126.112. Implement targeted training for law enforcement officials on responding to cases of domestic violence, and ensure that all allegations are fully investigated (Canada);
- 126.113. Take steps to ensure the provision of adequate shelter, including staffing and durable resources, for victims of domestic violence (Canada);
- 126.114. Continue strengthening programs to combat domestic violence, including an awareness-raising plan (Chile);
- 126.115. Continue the actions taken to reduce domestic violence and violence against women in all its forms (Cuba);
- 126.116. Take all necessary measures to promote the rights of women and to effectively combat domestic violence (France);
- 126.117. Reinforce measures to combat violence against women, including legislative amendments to the Criminal Code and the Domestic Violence Act and by awareness raising campaigns (Germany);
- 126.118. Institute measures to prevent and effectively respond to all incidents of violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of women and girls, as well as introduce measures to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish all perpetrators (Ghana);
- 126.119. Enact a comprehensive strategy in order that the rights of children are further protected and widened (Greece);
- 126.120. Increase efforts to keep children in schools and protect them from sexual exploitation or forced and unlawful employment (Malaysia);
- 126.121. Increase the minimum age of marriage which is 15 for girls and 16 for boys to an age which is in line with international standards (Algeria);
- 126.122. Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 (Sierra Leone);
- 126.123. Increase the minimum age of employment to 16 years in line with the observations of the ILO (Honduras);
- 126.124. Review, adopt and implement the pending draft national policy on persons with disabilities to ensure non-discrimination in education, employment and healthcare (Maldives);
- 126.125. Continue developing and implementing measures that allow the inclusion of persons with disabilities (Argentina);
- 126.126. Try to address the intractable problem of providing education and health services to certain categories of children with disabilities, with appropriate assistance from regional and international partners (Jamaica);
- 126.127. Ensure that research on how the education of children with disabilities can be implemented through mainstream educational settings, is included in the planned comprehensive implementation plan for persons with disabilities. Regional and international experiences and best practices could be incorporated into such a study (Jamaica);
- 126.128. Promote strategies for the mitigation of climate change and disseminate those through school programs (Haiti).

**127. 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 Vincent and the Grenadines was headed by the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, H.E. Rhonda King, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Karen Duncan, Senior Crown Counsel in the Ministry of Legal Affairs.
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