

Statement by the His Excellency Mr. Wayne McCook, Permanent
Representative of **JAMAICA** to the UN and its Specialized Agencies, Geneva

for the

Consideration of the National Report of the Government of the Dominican
Republic

on

5 February 2014

Mr. President,

The delegation of Jamaica welcomes the delegation of the Dominican Republic and thanks Her Excellency Ms. Rhadys Abrieu, [*Head of the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*] for the recent developments highlighted in her statement to the Working Group.

My delegation is pleased that the Government has accepted 93 percent of the recommendations submitted during the first cycle of the UPR (*paragraph 4*) and welcomes the achievements outlined in the national report, *inter alia*

- Prioritization of persons with disabilities (paragraph 30), including the strengthening of the National Council for the Disabled. (paragraph 10)
- Establishment of a human rights unit in the Office of the Attorney-General (paragraph 13)

- Implementation of a strategic framework and national road map to free the Dominican Republic of child labour by 2020

My delegation takes note of the establishment of the Dominican Constitutional Court in 2011 (*paragraph 15*). In this context, my delegation considers it important to draw attention to the matter of Judgment TC 0168/2013 on nationality which modifies, retroactively, legislation that bestowed citizenship on persons born in the Dominican Republic between 1929 and 2010. The delegation of Jamaica expresses its grave concern at the situation which could render stateless a significant number of Dominican Republic nationals of Haitian descent. The human rights implications of this judgment have been addressed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In the preliminary observations from the Commission's on-site visit of December 2013, it is stated that the ruling implies an arbitrary deprivation of nationality and further has a discriminatory effect.

The Jamaican delegation welcomes the resumption of dialogue between the Dominican Republic and Haiti in seeking to address this issue and urges the Government of the Dominican Republic to adopt measures to ensure that the citizenship rights of nationals of the Dominican Republic of Haitian descent and other affected nationals are guaranteed.

Mr. President,

We are confident that the points raised by our delegation and the constructive engagement of the Members in this important exercise will be of value to the delegation of the Dominican Republic. We know that our sister Caribbean country understands our concern and will reinforce her commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you.

