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FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS

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Statement by Barbados on the Occasion of the  
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Dominica  
Thursday, May 1, 2014

Thank you Mr. President.

Barbados wishes to extend a very warm welcome to the delegation from Dominica and in particular Head of Delegation \*\*\*\*\*  
We also wish to take this opportunity to commend the report which highlighted the country's national initiatives and experiences aimed at promoting and protecting human rights at all levels.

H.E. MR  
VINCE  
HENDERSON

Mr. President, my delegation will now touch on a few key policy decisions.

Firstly, we commend Dominica for its ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening its legal framework and administrative measures for the protection and enhancement of human rights.

We note positively, ongoing reviews of legislation specifically related to combating domestic violence and the physical abuse of children as well as strategies aimed at educating and sensitizing the general populous to these matters. We also commend progress made in reducing under 5 mortality rates, improving school enrollment rates as well as promoting greater access to education and health care by a wider cross section of society.

Dominica, like other small island states in the Caribbean region, is committed to enhancing the social and economic rights of its citizens. According to the UN Human Development Index, the country is ranked no. 72 out of 187 countries. As one can imagine, a considerable amount of investment and resources are dedicated to providing for and maintaining extensive social safety net programmes and improving the quality of life of its citizens. While the country has witnessed some growth in recent years, we also know from experience, the considerable responsibility maintaining progress can place on small states with significant resource and capacity constraints. We therefore call for greater sensitivity by the donor community in recognizing the unique financing difficulties faced by small states as they strive to enhance the social and economic livelihoods and rights of citizens.

Mr President, I wish to now turn to recommendations.

As a small state with resource and capacity constraints, we also recognize the ongoing challenges faced by Dominica in harmonizing and integrating international obligations with national legislation. This task has become increasingly difficult, particularly in a context of an ever expanding body of

human rights treaties, norms and principles. We therefore recommend that greater efforts be made by the OHCHR to further assist capacity constrained Small states in the Caribbean to address this issue, as well as the increasing reporting obligations attendant thereto.

In concluding, Barbados takes this opportunity to wish Dominica a successful UPR.

Thank you.

Permanent Mission of Barbados  
1/May/2014