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**PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
AT GENEVA**

**Statement by Barbados on the Occasion of the Universal Periodic
Review (UPR) of St. Kitts and Nevis
Wednesday, November 11, 2015**

Thank you Mr. President.

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

My delegation commends St. Kitts and Nevis for the work they have put into producing their national report and the presentation made here today.

We have noted the efforts made by St. Kitts and Nevis to improve the quality of life of its citizens through social programmes and policies which underpin the development of a national human rights architecture.

We commend the emphasis placed on poverty reduction and the close collaboration with UN agencies based in the region in devising strategies to strengthen social assistance, improve the quality of education, improve health care and strengthen the overall competitiveness of the country. In this respect, we encourage St. Kitts and Nevis to continue to strengthen its domestic legislation to create a sustainable enabling environment for social protection reform.

My delegation is mindful that these prescriptions, along with the stated commitments of St. Kitts and Nevis, take place against a backdrop of significant economic difficulties. While its negative impact cannot be understated, we are however assured that the democratic underpinnings of St. Kitts and Nevis, a sister CARICOM state, its historical commitment to justice and equality will provide the basis for its continued resilience.

We commend St. Kitts and Nevis in seeking to mainstream women in the development of the country and for the efforts undertaken to protect women and girls from domestic and all other forms of violence. In this respect we note the creation of a Special Victims Unit within the Police Force to address this concern.

My delegation also notes the legislation adopted to bring about equality in the workplace by mandating equal pay with no differentiation between male and female employees. We encourage St. Kitts and Nevis to continue its collaboration with the International Labour Organisation in developing and adopting the relevant labour codes to protect the rights of workers and to just and favourable conditions of work.

In concluding, Barbados wishes St. Kitts and Nevis a successful UPR.

Thank you.