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**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 23rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Saint Kitts and Nevis**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia thanks Saint Kitts and Nevis for its National Report. Australia welcomes Saint Kitts and Nevis's actions to implement its human rights obligations by requesting technical assistance from the international community, as well as indicating its support for Organisation of American States (OAS) resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Australia remains concerned by the criminalisation of consensual same-sex activity between men, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment. We are also concerned by the lack of legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Australia calls on the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to promote equality and non-discrimination. **Australia recommends Saint Kitts and Nevis repeal all legislation which may discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.**

Australia recognises that the death penalty has not been imposed by Saint Kitts and Nevis since 2008, but is concerned that at least one individual remains on death row. **Australia recommends Saint Kitts and Nevis establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**