Jamaica welcomes [the Head of Delegation] of Saint Lucia, and thanks [him] for his extensive update on measures taken and planned to improve the situation of human rights in Saint Lucia; noting that, since its last review in 2011, the Government has made genuine efforts and strides in improving access to food, water, and housing and responding to concerns affecting an array of civil and political rights.

We note that many of these efforts have been supported by UN agencies and bilateral donors.

We commend Saint Lucia for its frank assessment of both progress and shortcomings made. For example, the matter of reporting and co-ordination of human rights, which the Government has attributed to the absence of a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) or similar mechanism. Jamaica commends Saint Lucia for its determination to address this issue, by soliciting assistance from the UNDP and other international organisations.

It is in this context, that Jamaica strongly recommends that the Saint Lucian Government intensify its direct engagement with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in order to ensure that the country receives coherent, appropriate, tailor-made assistance from the UN as a whole. We also recommend that the Government explore diverse options to improve the co-ordination of human rights, including, but not limited to, the establishment of a single mechanism such as an N.H.R.I.

Jamaica commends Saint Lucia for initiatives to address pressing issues of concern to the society, such as the introduction of recorded testimonies of vulnerable witnesses via video link; the planned introduction of a “Use of Force Policy” for the Police; launching of a Child Disability Grant; establishment of a Vulnerable Persons Team within the Police Force to respond exclusively to domestic violence against women and children, and the establishment of its National Health Helpline for persons who may be suicidal or suffering from other mental health and related problems.

Jamaica commends Saint Lucia for its utilisation of regional mechanisms in pursuing its human rights agenda. This demonstrates a confidence in the expertise available in the Caribbean region and the wider hemisphere, which augurs well for the continued sharing of best practices with St. Lucia’s neighbours.

We wish you all the best in this current review.