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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**THE 23RD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW**

REVIEW OF SAINT LUCIA

05 NOVEMBER 2015

PALAIS DES NATIONS

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Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Saint Lucia to the 23rd Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive presentation of its national report.

We are encouraged by Saint Lucia's intention to meet its all its obligations regarding the accession/ratification of international instruments, as well as reporting and strengthening the level of engagement with the instruments notwithstanding its capacity constraint. We welcome the major strides that the country has made in ensuring the empowerment of women; ensuring that women in rural areas have better access to education and vocational training programmes; and affirming the rights of all children to receive an education and prohibits refusing admission of students to schools on any discriminatory grounds.

South Africa is further encouraged by the fact that Constitution of Saint Lucia prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, place of origin, political opinion, colour or creed. In order to give further impetus to this progress already register, South Africa would like to recommend that Saint Lucia should:

- (1) Enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society;**
- (2) Mainstream gender equality policies in the education sector, ensuring that gender issues and sensitivity training become an integral, substantive and mandatory component of all teacher training at all levels; and**
- (3) Review the effectiveness of government mechanisms intended to support the achievement of gender equality**

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation wishes Saint Lucia success in their second review.

I thank you.