

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 25TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (2ND – 13TH MAY, 2016)**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY
MR. JOSEPH OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON MONDAY 9TH MAY, 2016**

I thank you Mr. President

Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Antigua and Barbuda to this session and commends their commitment to the UPR process.

Ghana notes the amendments to the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, the Migrant Smuggling Act and the Immigration and Passport Act. It is hoped that these amended Acts would strengthen the legal regime and help address existing gaps in the promotion and protection of the human rights for all persons.

Ghana notes that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has yet to ratify a number of core UN international human rights treaties although it had accepted to do so during the first cycle review. Ghana, therefore, recommends that Antigua and Barbuda ratifies the following treaties:

1. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights **(ICCPR)**
2. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights **(ICESCR)** and
3. The International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families **(ICRMW)**

Also, Ghana wishes to recommend to Antigua and Barbuda to submit all overdue reports to the relevant human rights treaty bodies and issue standing invitations to all special procedures.

Ghana would urge Antigua and Barbuda not to hesitate to seek appropriate technical assistance including with the support of the OHCHR with a view to expedite necessary action by Antigua and Barbuda to uphold her international human rights obligations.

I thank you Mr President.