



**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 Antigua and Barbuda  
May 9, 2016**

Thank you Mr. President.

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of our sister CARICOM state of Antigua and Barbuda.

My delegation commends Antigua and Barbuda for the progress made in the area of human rights since its first UPR. We note the emphasis to provide additional protection to all segments of the society and particularly commend the country's accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in January this year. We urge continued collaboration with all stakeholders in the drafting of a national policy for the disable.

My delegation also commends the efforts made by Antigua and Barbuda in improving the protection of children by:

- The passing of Child Justice Bill which seek to prevent the criminalization of young people as far a possible keeping them outside the traditional criminal justice process;
- The adoption of legislation which provides for the equal status of children regardless to the marital status of parents, and

- The integration of children with disabilities into the educational system.

We have noted the efforts by Antigua and Barbuda to improve the quality of life of its citizens through social programmes and policies to reduce poverty, to assist the elderly and the provision of adequate health care services. Efforts to promote gender equality and to tackle domestic and sexual violence through awareness programmes and training for law enforcement officers are to be applauded.

My delegation is mindful that these efforts, along with the stated commitments of Government of Antigua and Barbuda to advance human rights take place against a backdrop of significant economic and capacity constraints but that the country remains committed to fulfilling its constitutional and international obligations in underpinning and expanding its human rights architecture. Barbados assures Antigua and Barbuda of its continuing support in this area.

In concluding, Barbados wishes Antigua and Barbuda a successful UPR.

Thank you.