

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, GENEVA, (2<sup>ND</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016):**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW  
OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR. JOSEPH  
OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2016**

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines led by Her Excellency the Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Ms. Rhonda King, and thanks them for their report. Ghana notes the strides made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since their first UPR in 2011 to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens, including among others the passage of the Domestic Violence (DV) Act, 2015, the establishment of the National Child Rights Committee, and the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence.

Despite the achievements made by the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in promoting and protecting human rights in the past view years, Ghana is concerned about alleged reports of frequent violence against women and girls in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Ghana therefore wishes to recommend to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to institute measures to prevent and effectively respond to all incidents of violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of women and girls, as well as measures to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish all perpetrators.

Mr. President,

Furthermore, Ghana wishes to make recommend to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to ratify the following UN human rights treaties:

- the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Dissapearances;
- the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and

Ghana wishes Saint Vincent and the Grenadines a successful review.

Thank you Mr. President.