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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
25TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP

Statement by
Miss Cherryl Gordon, Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Jamaica
to the
Universal Periodic Review of
SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Geneva, 2nd May, 2016

Jamaica warmly welcomes the delegation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, our sister CARICOM State, and thanks them for the update on the situation of human rights in the country.

Jamaica commends St. Vincent and the Grenadines for its commitment to improving the quality of life of its citizens, especially women and children, and in education and housing. Particularly commendable is the passing of the Domestic Violence Act of 2015; the amendment of the Child Care and Adoption Act; intensification of human rights training for and by the Police Force; and significant improvements in conditions of detention, including education for inmates. Also commendable is the parenting campaign, 'Connecting families in communities' aimed at reducing child abuse; and the Government's achievement of the MDG-FAO twin-targets to reduce, by more than half, the number of hungry or under-nourished people by 2012.

Jamaica recommends that St. Vincent and the Grenadines try to address the intractable problem of providing education and health services to certain categories of disabled children, with appropriate assistance from regional and international partners. We also recommend that St. Vincent and the Grenadines ensure that research on how the education of disabled students can be implemented through mainstream educational settings, is included in the planned comprehensive implementation plan for persons with disabilities. Regional and international experiences and best practices could be incorporated into such a study.

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We applaud St. Vincent and the Grenadines for its strides in education and would appreciate the Delegation's views on a concern raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, that textbooks developed at the Caribbean (regional) level, continued to have a 'European perspective' and did not sufficiently reflect the specific history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Finally, Jamaica wishes St. Vincent and the Grenadines all the very best in this review.

I thank you.