



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

**25TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW**

REVIEW OF SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES

02 MAY 2016

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Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of St. Vincent and Grenadines to the 25th Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report.

We commend St. Vincent and Grenadines for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human right; in particular the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2015, gender mainstreaming various sectors, human rights education campaigns, including reproductive rights awareness campaign.

We have noted with great appreciation the efforts of the country to research and write their nation's history following independence in 1979. We encourage the country to continue these efforts bearing in mind the many difficulties that they have encountered

in this endeavour, in particular that the archives of the former colonizers constituted the main sources of information, which posed difficulties in terms of both access and content. We have also noted with great appreciation the de facto moratorium on the death penalty in the country with the last sentence having been carried out in 1993. We recommend that the country **consider the possibility of the abolition of the death penalty in its statutes.**

We further recommend that St. Vincent and Grenadines should:

- 1. Ensure comprehensive human rights training for teachers with a view to preventing any excessive use of force; and**
- 2. Consider prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings.**

Finally, Mr. President, we wish St. Vincent and Grenadines success in their second review.

I thank you.