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**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 St. Vincent and the Grenadines**
May 2, 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of sister CARICOM states St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

My delegation commends St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the very frank assessment of the country's efforts to place human rights in the forefront of its development and for their national report and the presentation made here today.

It is well noted that St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Constitution guarantees those fundamental rights and freedoms which are the subject of various international human rights conventions and agreements. It is also well noted that the Constitution provides for the enforcement of the protective provisions through an independent judiciary.

Barbados therefore congratulates St. Vincent and the Grenadines for its continuing efforts to elaborate the protections under the Constitution by the passing of legislation relevant to an evolving body of international human rights jurisprudence. In this respect note is taken of the legislation to provide greater protection for victims of domestic violence and the protection for the care and adoption of children.

Note is also taken of the large number of international human rights agreements acceded to by St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the last six years. My delegation is not unaware of the severe constraints placed on small states to accede to these agreements and consequent reporting obligations notwithstanding the paucity of financial, administrative and technical resources.

Notwithstanding this, we have noted the intention of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to meeting its obligations under human rights instruments to which it is party as well as to accede to those that would further strengthen the legal and institutional framework for human rights in the country.

In this regard, Barbados urges consideration of the establishment of a national human rights institution to work in collaboration with UN agencies to monitor and implement recommendations from international human rights mechanisms in accordance with the Constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Barbados commends the broad efforts and strides being undertaken in the areas of the right to education, the combating of trafficking, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to health, the protection of persons with disabilities and the rights of children. We note the emphasis place on promotion of human rights training and education at all levels of the society including law enforcement agencies and encourage St. Vincent and the Grenadines in its on-going efforts to place its citizens at the center of development.

In concluding, Barbados takes this opportunity to wish St. Vincent and the Grenadines a successful UPR.

Thank you.