

Statement by Barbados on the Universal Periodic Review of Cuba

15 November 2023

Mr. President,

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation from Cuba led by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, and would wish to take this opportunity, to commend the report which highlights the national initiatives, aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights at all levels.

We recognize the external challenges faced by Cuba and are appreciative of the efforts taken within these and other constraints to ensure that the protection and promotion of human rights.

Mr. President, speaking to the report,

We commend the *Comprehensive Strategy on Prevention, and Support in relation to Gender-based and Family Violence* and the adoption of the *Family Code*, which came into force in September 2022, to increase the level of protection accorded to victims of domestic violence.

We also take note, of the implementation, of the *National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination* and commends the Governments effort to tackle racial prejudice and racial discrimination.

Mr. President to the Government of Cuba we recommend

The continuance of necessary steps, to strengthen the legal and institutional framework in order to combat discrimination against women in the workplace, above and beyond the *awareness campaigns*, and to continue the work under the National Programme for the Advancement of Women.

In regard to Civil Society, we recommend more collaboration to ensure that the role of civil society is fulfilled in the decision making process.

 To conclude, we wish the Government of Cuba a successful UPR.

Thank You.