**37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Universal Periodic Review of Saint Lucia**

**Statement by**

**the Co-operative Republic of Guyana**

***Geneva, January 20, 2021***

Thank you, Madam President,

Guyana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Saint Lucia, a sister CARICOM nation and thanks them for the presentation of their National Report.

We commend Saint Lucia’s commitment to fulfilling its human rights obligations and applaud progress achieved in advancing human rights and strengthening protection for all Saint Lucians.

Guyana welcomes the actions taken by Saint Lucia to implement recommendations received during its second cycle UPR and for following through on its commitment to address human rights reporting and coordination. We recognize that these achievements were made in the face of resource constraints and while tackling the COVID-19 crisis, natural disasters and threats posed by climate change. We commend Saint Lucia for its determination to overcome such challenges and would like to know how the international community could continue to support its efforts to advance implementation of the outcomes of human rights mechanisms.

In a constructive spirit, we recommend that Saint Lucia continue in its efforts to:

* address child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and gender-based violence
* provide protection for older persons and persons with disabilities, including by improving access to health care; and
* develop an official policy for pregnant learner retention and re-entry into the formal education system.

We wish Saint Lucia a successful Review.

I Thank You.