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**The Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

**to the 39th Session of the Working Group for the Universal Periodic Review**

**Statement**

by

**Mr. Westford Joseph**

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**“Statement on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at the Adoption of the Report of the UPR Working Group on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at the 39th Session of the Working Group for the Universal Periodic Review”**

November 9, 2021

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Madam President, Members of the Troika, Distinguished Excellences,

Good afternoon.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is pleased to have participated in this 39th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Period Review. The Universal Period Review continues to enjoy participation of all Member States of the United Nations, which is testament of the high esteem afforded to it by all states, and its benefits to the advancement of human rights globally.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomed the opportunity to highlight its achievements over the last five years in its duty to fulfil, promote and protect human rights nationally, and to receive the opinions and recommendations from fellow member states on its performance. As we highlighted in our review, we approached this process not only with the intention to inform and highlight our strengths, but also to learn and make mention of the challenges being experiences and the strategies being employed to overcome them.

Human Rights remain high on the agenda of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as a life of dignity, respect, equality, and opportunity are imperative to the advancement of any nation. In line with the national efforts of states, we must not forget that there is a duty on the international community to address new and emerging global issues which have increasingly affected the human rights of persons. Some of these issues includes climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and those affecting the right to a healthy and sustainable environment, which has increasingly affected numerous persons around the globe, including the citizenry of Small Island Developing States such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We must begin to highlight in our UPRs our individual actions to combat these threats.

We thank all states that participated in our review and offered their input in the session. We stay humble in the commendations we received from states and listened keenly to the opinions and recommendations offered.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also expresses its thanks and appreciation to the members of the Troika; the Plurilateral State of Bolivia, The Republic of Malawi, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the preparation of the report that will be adopted today, particularly in their diligent work of verifying the recommendation received.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines intends to review these recommendations earnestly, taking into consideration the proposals of the National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and other relevant stakeholders, and will inform the UPR Secretariat on the positions of the State by the stipulated timeline, before the next Regular Session of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, we wish to thank the Office of the High Commission on Human Rights and the Universal Periodic Review Secretariat for its involvement throughout the process, including consultations, support through the UPR Voluntary Fund, and for its assistance in the preparation of the Report of the UPR Working Group on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Madam President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to the UPR process. Our experiences in the review process have highlighted the tremendous benefits that the mechanism has on human rights nationally and internationally. We are committed to continuing to advance and improve on our human rights agenda, in keeping with the will and desire of our people, and our international obligations under the various human rights treaties we have acceded to.

I thank you Madam President.