

**Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**STATEMENT by Mr. Samuel L. Lanwi Jr., Deputy Permanent Representative**

**39th Session, Universal Periodic Review**

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**Geneva**

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

The Marshall Islands warmly welcomes the Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to this UPR cycle and thanks them for their report.

We welcome the ratification of the main international human rights treaties and efforts in promoting and protecting human rights for everyone. In particular, the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act 2015 was a necessary step in the fight against gender-based violence.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, the Marshall Island offer the following recommendations for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines consideration:

1. Seek technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to meet international human rights obligations and to facilitate human rights training and education;
2. Establish a human rights institution to observe the national human rights situation and in pursuance of an improvement to follow-up on recommendations and implementations of international human rights treaties;
3. Further strengthen your legislation to prohibit any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or social status and specially to prevent any form of discrimination and harassment against women by including domestic violence as a criminal offence in the Domestic Violence Act; and
4. Establish facilities and institutions where victims of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse can find a safe space in order to escape a vicious cycle of dependence.

In closing, we wish the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines every success during their third UPR cycle.

Kommol tata and thank you.