**Human Rights Council**

**29TH Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Statement by**

**Miss Cherryl Gordon, Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative,**

**Permanent Mission of Jamaica**

**to the**

**Universal Periodic Review of**

 **BARBADOS**

**Geneva, 19th January, 2018**

 Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

 Jamaica warmly welcomes the delegation of Barbados, our sister CARICOM State, led by Honourable Steven Blackett, and thanks him for the update on the situation of human rights in the country.

             Jamaica commends Barbados for its commitment to improving the quality of life of its citizens, including women and children, and for its continued strides in the provision of education and housing.

 Of particular note is the work of the Bureau of Gender Affairs in seeking to eliminate gender-based discrimination and domestic violence; especially the focus on young men, masculinity and male behaviour, as well as the targeting of school-girls to encourage them to choose non-traditional occupations.

 We also commend Barbados for its progress in the area of police training; launching of the Barbados National Youth Parliament and proclamation of the *Safety and Health at Work Act*.

 Jamaica recommends that Barbados:

1. Continue to work towards reducing reported incidences of abuse of force by the Police, through ongoing training and improved internal investigation techniques;
2. Continue and, if possible, intensify programmes aimed at expanding the participation of women in more varied fields of employment;
3. Elaborate a clear, appropriate policy and/or measures for pregnant school-girls, which permits them to remain in formal education and to sit exams, then to return to school after giving birth, including through the use of approaches such as separate classes; aimed at breaking cycles of poverty, teen-age pregnancy and domestic violence; and
4. Continue to strengthen the institutions which promote local culture, incorporating human rights training and awareness based on an approach which sees human rights as complementary to Barbadian culture and nationalism.

          Jamaica wishes Barbados all the very best in this review.          I thank you.