**Statement by Her Excellency Cheryl Spencer**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Jamaica**

**35th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Guyana-29 January 2020**

Thank you, Madame President.

Jamaica warmly welcomes its CARICOM sister state of Guyana to this UPR session. We commend the delegation on its national report which underscores the continued commitment of the Government of Guyana to safeguard and promote the fundamental human rights of its citizens.

We acknowledge the strong progress made by Guyana since its last review, notably those relating to education, health, improvement of the lives and protection of women and the modernization of its police force. We also commend Guyana for the positive measures taken to further combat drug and human trafficking, money-laundering, corruption, domestic violence, and juvenile delinquency, as well as its Green State Development Strategy-2040, all reflecting the commitment of the country, to strengthen its human rights policies, programmes and institutional framework.

In a constructive spirit, Jamaica wishes to offer the following recommendations:

That Guyana:

1. considers the early ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
2. takes further steps towards establishing a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up; and
3. strengthens the legislative framework against racial discrimination and for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees and other vulnerable groupings, and
4. takes advantage of technical assistance support to further advance its ongoing efforts in these areas

We extend to the delegation of Guyana our best wishes for a successful review. Thank you.