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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-ninth session from 1 to 12 November 2021. The review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was held at the 5th meeting, on 3 November 2021. The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and Senator, Keisal M. Peters. At its 12th meeting, held on 9 November 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Malawi, Pakistan and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay was transmitted to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomed the opportunity to participate in the third cycle of the universal periodic review and provide an update on the progress made by the country in implementing its human rights agenda.
6. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had implemented, in whole or in part, over 90 per cent of the recommendations it had accepted in the previous review. In addition, the country had established a functioning inter-agency mechanism, the National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, which would coordinate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of accepted recommendations and reach out to various stakeholders, including civil society.
7. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had made great progress in bringing its human rights-related legislation, including the Domestic Violence Act of 2015, the Child Justice Act of 2019, the Cybercrime Act of 2016 and the Consumer Protection Act of 2020, into line with international standards. In response to some of the advance questions received, the delegation was pleased to report that the sexual offences laws and employments laws were also being revised, including with regard to establishing the minimum age of marriage at 18 years and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace, sexual assault and rape. Those legislative reviews were incorporating recommendations from a multiplicity of stakeholders, including the treaty bodies. The delegation highlighted the importance of periodic reporting to the treaty bodies and stated that a road map had been developed by the National Human Rights

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/VCT/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/39/VCT/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/VCT/3](#).

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism to clear the backlog of reports. As a result, within the next five to eight years the country would be in full compliance with its reporting obligations.

8. In an effort to reduce the backlog of cases before the courts, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had bolstered the staff in the criminal judicial system. Sentencing guidelines, sentencing induction hearings and mediation training had been introduced or updated to reduce the number of cases processed by the courts. The Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force had taken steps to further curtail instances of police abuse and misconduct. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would also consider creating an independent body to investigate complaints against law enforcement officials.

9. The Government had made great efforts to implement social and economic programmes to alleviate poverty. Social assistance programmes continued to provide cash and in-kind support to persons living in poverty, including financial assistance to acquire medication and pay for utility bills and school supplies. Housing programmes continued to provide no-cost or low-cost housing to persons with disabilities, persons living in poverty and low to middle-income earners. Programmes were also in place to distribute food baskets to families in need and provide school meals.

10. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had promoted the diversification of the economy to ensure sustainable growth and job creation, including in the construction, hospitality, manufacturing, agriculture and fishery sectors. Programmes to spur job creation, build skills among the unemployed, encourage entrepreneurship, facilitate internships and access overseas job markets had also been implemented.

11. With regard to the right to education, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had increased the number of free preschool centres, attracted several universities, and continued to provide loans, financial help and in-kind support to students in need. The State also made available several technical and vocational training opportunities and built the information and communications technology capabilities of students through free or low-cost Internet schemes and free tablet distribution.

12. The use of corporal punishment as a sentence in the courts had been removed from the Child Justice Act of 2019, and the Act contained provisions to curtail the use of corporal punishment nationally. Corporal punishment remained in schools only as a measure of last resort and was seldom imposed. If a child faced unsafe conditions or was a victim of abuse, under the Children (Care and Adoption) Act he or she could access protection through the Family Services Division and the Child Development Division.

13. The needs and rights of people remained at the core of the Government's responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the explosive eruptions of La Soufrière volcano, and the increasingly intense adverse weather events caused by climate change.

14. In the fight against COVID-19, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had bolstered the health-care system, trained front-line workers and enacted legislation to better manage the spread of the disease in the population. The Public Health (COVID-19) Rules placed restrictions on public gatherings and made mandatory the wearing of masks in public places, the Public Health (Emergency Authorisation of COVID-19 Vaccine) Rules provided for the use of six vaccines for the prevention and treatment of the disease, and the recovery and stimulus package included measures to strengthen the social safety net and minimize the economic impact. The National Insurance Act had been amended to provide unemployment benefits for persons laid off due to the pandemic.

15. New programmes had been developed, and existing ones expanded, to address the higher risk of domestic abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people, including women and children, as a result of the pandemic. Through online schooling, children had been able to continue their education, and steps had been taken to further sensitize the public to the increased risk of child abuse and exploitation during those periods.

16. The explosive phase of La Soufrière volcano eruption had been equally destructive to the socioeconomic situation in the country, displacing 21 per cent of the population and causing widespread damage. Although the explosive phase seemed to have ended, the country was still dealing with its consequences, which included relocating communities to safer areas, cleaning up ash and debris, restoring infrastructure and, most importantly,

providing support to those affected. The Government had introduced the Psychosocial Family Life Education Programme, as well as employment programmes for the clean-up process, targeting persons whose livelihoods had been impacted by the eruption. The resettling programme was ongoing and included building homes for those individuals whose houses had been destroyed and who had resided in areas that had been declared unsuitable for reoccupation. The La Soufrière Relief Grant Programme would continue to provide cash-transfer support to displaced families until December 2021.

17. The delegation highlighted the prompt response and assistance lent to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by various international organizations, States and even private individuals during the emergencies mentioned. The solidarity expressed by numerous people around the world had been overwhelming. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines wished to also acknowledge all partners who had supported the numerous projects, programmes, and initiatives mentioned in its national report.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 53 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Haiti congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism despite a difficult context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and the eruption of La Soufrière volcano. It welcomed the establishment of a central body that worked in consultation with other stakeholders to facilitate the preparation of national human rights reports. Haiti considered that the competence of that body should be broadened to meet other international obligations, in particular reporting obligations under International Labour Organization conventions.

20. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the national report and the steps outlined therein.

21. India expressed appreciation for the legislative and policy measures outlined in the national report to promote and protect human rights. It noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was taking the necessary measures to address the challenges and effects of climate change, through its National Climate Change Policy and its National Climate Strategy and Implementation Plan.

22. Indonesia noted the national action plans, issued by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines after its second review, for the protection of women, children and health, and on combating human trafficking and climate change. It encouraged the full implementation of those national action plans in order to meet the country's obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments.

23. Ireland commended the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in implementing the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review, including the establishment of an interministerial mechanism for reporting and follow-up. It remained concerned that consensual same-sex conduct was illegal and encouraged the country to engage with its LGBTI+ community, particularly in the areas of access to health care, social services and the labour market. While welcoming the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, Ireland encouraged the country to work towards its complete abolition.

24. Israel remained concerned that trafficking in persons persisted in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. While acknowledging that incidents of human trafficking had been investigated, it expressed regret that no cases had been brought forward. It also welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act.

25. Italy welcomed the fact that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty. It also welcomed the progress of the country in harmonizing its domestic legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the establishment of the National Child Rights Committee.

26. Kenya congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on its comprehensive national report and welcomed the positive steps taken in promoting and protecting human rights,

particularly the establishment of the National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

27. Malawi applauded Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, notably the implementation of the recovery and stimulus package and the amendment of the National Insurance Act to provide unemployment allowances. It noted the effective response of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the catastrophic volcanic eruption in April 2021 and recognized that the country needed the cooperation of the international community to mitigate the impact of the volcanic disaster on people.

28. Malaysia commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its progress in improving the judicial system, implementing social assistance programmes and enhancing access to education. Malaysia was also pleased to note the comprehensive review that the country had taken to protect children against sexual violence, and the collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to address gender-based violence.

29. Maldives commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for enacting several noteworthy human rights-related pieces of legislation, notably the Domestic Violence Act, the Child Justice Act, the Cybercrime Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Consumer Protection Act, among other laws. It noted that these Acts reflected the country's firm commitment to uphold human rights standards and fundamental freedoms.

30. The Marshall Islands welcomed the ratification by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines of the main international human rights treaties and the efforts made in promoting and protecting human rights for everyone. It also highlighted the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act as a necessary step in the fight against gender-based violence.

31. Mauritius congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for providing free education from the age of 5 to up to the age of 16, with a view to achieving universal access to education in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4. It further congratulated the country for establishing the Support for Education and Training Programme and enacting the Domestic Violence Act.

32. Mexico acknowledged the collaboration of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with OHCHR aimed at allowing the country to meet its international human rights commitments.

33. Montenegro commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for ratifying the majority of the core international human rights treaties. It noted the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, but expressed concern that such a penalty remained in the Criminal Code. Montenegro noted with appreciation the development of the National Climate Change Policy, with its accompanying National Climate Strategy and Implementation Plan, and the nationally determined contributions.

34. Namibia was particularly pleased about the adoption by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2015 of the Domestic Violence Act, which had provided different avenues for victims of domestic violence to seek redress. Namibia took note of the fact that the death penalty had not been applied in the country since 1993, which meant that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was a de facto abolitionist State.

35. Nepal noted the various measures carried out by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to combat trafficking in persons, including through the implementation of a national action plan, and welcomed the establishment of a child rights committee and a gender equality commission tasked with promoting gender equality and ending gender-based violence.

36. The Netherlands welcomed the efforts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance women's rights, including through the programmes of the Gender Affairs division and the review of the sexual offences laws that was in progress. However, the Netherlands remained concerned about spikes in gender-based and sexual violence in the country as well as discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including through the criminalization of consensual same-sex conduct.

37. Pakistan commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its continued engagement with the human rights mechanisms. It recognized the economic and financial constraints faced by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and encouraged it to make the required investments in education, employment, social protection and climate resilience.

38. Panama encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to continue to request technical assistance from OHCHR for the preparation of reports to the treaty bodies.

39. In response to the recommendations received, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines highlighted its efforts to enhance gender equality, mutual respect and harmony between men and women. Participation of women politicians had increased in the 2020 general elections compared to previous years, reaching 40 per cent. Women's representation in the House of Assembly was 17.3 per cent, and 50 per cent of the civil servants were women, with many in high-ranking positions.

40. In 2020, the Government had expanded the scope of the gender equality commission to serve as an oversight body for gender mainstreaming. It had also implemented several multisectoral programmes to achieve gender equality and combat gender-based violence. The Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Code and the Children (Care and Adoption) Act were all comprehensive pieces of legislation that addressed gender-based violence and sexual abuse. The Sexual Offences Unit had been established to investigate crimes of a sexual nature, including gender-based violence and domestic violence, and a range of services were in place to ensure that victims received psychosocial support.

41. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had adopted several programmes and policies regarding climate change and disaster risk management, including a national climate change policy and a national climate change strategy and implementation plan. The country had partnered with the United Nations Development Programme to implement a public education programme on climate change and, in 2019, it had submitted its national adaptation plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the Security Council, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had highlighted the risk associated with climate change and security and had raised public awareness about how climate change had been an exacerbating factor in conflicts around the world.

42. The delegation noted the de facto moratorium on the death penalty in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The death penalty had not been imposed since 1995 and there was no proposal on the legislative agenda to remove it from the Criminal Code. The Government remained committed to the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and would do a preliminary investigation into the modalities that the institution would take.

43. Peru acknowledged the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including the establishment of an interministerial mechanism charged with preparing national human rights reports and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

44. The Philippines acknowledged the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and welcomed the legislative initiatives taken since its previous review, especially on addressing domestic violence and providing greater protection for children. It also noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and the adoption of national strategies and action plans on climate adaptation and on combating trafficking in persons.

45. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in 2016. It encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to take advantage of the OHCHR-issued practical guidance regarding the universal periodic review and to seek the assistance of the United Nations in facilitating the active role and effectiveness of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up.

46. Senegal welcomed the steps taken by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to implement the accepted recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It also welcomed the efforts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to effectively manage the global health crisis linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

47. Serbia commended the measures taken by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aimed at meeting the recommendations it had received during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review. It welcomed, in particular, the efforts the authorities had invested in improving the educational system and in responding to climate change.

48. Slovenia commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for signing and ratifying the majority of the key international human rights treaties. It encouraged the country to establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.
49. Spain welcomed the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and highlighted the importance of the principle of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It also noted that, under the Corporal Punishment of Juveniles Act and the Education Act, corporal punishment of children was still allowed.
50. Tunisia expressed appreciation for the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the previous review cycle, including efforts to support gender equality, eliminate domestic violence, combat poverty and strengthen social protection mechanisms. It also noted with appreciation the adoption of a national action plan against trafficking in persons and a national action plan for adolescent health.
51. Ukraine highlighted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had ratified the majority of the core international human rights treaties. It noted reports of continued discrimination against women, including gender-based violence, and welcomed the passing of the Domestic Violence Act with all-encompassing provisions, calling for its full implementation.
52. The United Kingdom welcomed the creation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit, the Sexual Offences Unit and the progress made in tackling modern slavery. However, it remained concerned by the continued prevalence of sexual offences and domestic violence against women and girls. It urged the Government to strengthen accountability mechanisms and to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations, while legislating against LGBTQ+ discrimination.
53. The United States commended the continued commitment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to human rights, while stressing that improvements could still be made to address the sexual exploitation of children, discrimination and gender-based violence against women and LGBTQI+ persons, and to improve prison conditions.
54. Uruguay acknowledged the efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including the adoption of a new national action plan to combat trafficking in persons, and wished the Government success in implementing the accepted recommendations.
55. Vanuatu thanked Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the actions taken to protect and promote the human rights of its people, in particular the ratification of the majority of the core international human rights treaties.
56. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed appreciation of the establishment by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines of the National Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and the forthcoming visit of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It also referred to the adoption of new legislation to protect the rights of the child and of various social assistance programmes, while highlighting the significant socioeconomic progress made by the country.
57. Algeria commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the actions taken to implement the accepted recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It also welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.
58. Argentina thanked Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the presentation of its national report and commended the country for its efforts to implement the recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
59. Armenia acknowledged the challenges faced by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that resulted from natural disasters and the consequences of climate change. It welcomed the fact that legal and policy measures were aimed at utilizing economic growth to build more sustainable social protection systems for vulnerable groups, reduce poverty and ensure equal opportunities.
60. Australia encouraged the continued engagement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the universal periodic review process and commended the legislation enacted to protect

human rights since the previous review, including relating to domestic violence and the protection of children. It urged the country to honour its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments to improve the protection of human rights.

61. The Bahamas recognized the ongoing commitment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the promotion and protection of human rights despite challenges faced. It commended the country on the implementation of various human rights-related legislation, particularly the Domestic Violence Act, as well as public awareness and educational campaigns. It also congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its progress in providing access to education, and encouraged the country to avail itself of technical assistance and capacity-building support in accordance with its human rights priorities.

62. Barbados commended the constructive engagement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines throughout the universal periodic review process and noted the pragmatic steps that the Government was taking to ensure the well-being of persons in the country, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of natural disasters and the climate crisis.

63. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had ratified eight of the nine key human rights treaties and was open to considering the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which it had signed in 2010. The country had also accepted all invitations received by special procedure mandate holders to visit the country and was soon expecting a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

64. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also continued to improve prison conditions. It had constructed new detention facilities and rehabilitated existing ones to comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). It acknowledged that the Rules could not be followed completely in Her Majesty's Prison in Kingstown, due to its current infrastructure, and would welcome assistance from the international community in that regard. The Government had also made substantial progress in reforming juvenile justice, including by transforming the Liberty Lodge Boys' Training Centre to include a wing to house boys in conflict with the law and ensuring their engagement in a variety of technical and vocational programmes. The country was aware that more was still needed to accommodate girls in conflict with the law and, with the help of the international community, it would expedite that process over the coming years.

65. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continued to experience a low number of cases of trafficking in persons. A national plan of action on human trafficking had existed for 11 years and had been revised in 2020. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit within the police force had prioritized prevention, maintaining vigilance and implementing public education campaigns. Law enforcement authorities continued to adopt a victim-centred approach and were making every effort to identify, investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking.

66. Canada welcomed the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since the previous review cycle and commended the efforts of the country to improve the backlog of cases before the courts.

67. Chile congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on its progress in the promotion and protection of human rights and highlighted the strengthening of measures aimed at eliminating domestic violence and trafficking in persons. It also underlined the actions adopted by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to increase the protection of children, address the vulnerabilities caused by climate change to the human rights of its population, and the programmes aimed at overcoming poverty.

68. Costa Rica welcomed the efforts by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to implement the recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, as well as its acceptance of the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

69. Cuba acknowledged the efforts made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to implement the recommendations it had accepted in the second review cycle, despite challenges faced by the country as a small island developing State and the impact of the eruption of La Soufrière volcano. Cuba highlighted the country's progress in updating its

legislation and the approval of national plans and policies in essential sectors. It particularly commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the actions taken to protect children and adolescents.

70. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea highly commended the achievement by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines of measurable and significant socioeconomic progress, as demonstrated by the significant reduction in indigence and poverty; tangible quality-of-life improvements based on a growing economy; increasing job opportunities; and a strengthened social safety net.

71. Denmark commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls. However, it remained concerned that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community continued to face discrimination. Denmark was also concerned about reports of overcrowding and insufficient access to medical care in the prison and detention facilities.

72. The Dominican Republic congratulated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for its continued efforts to ensure the protection of the lives of citizens and limit the damage caused by natural events as a result of climate change.

73. Fiji commended Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for ratifying the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) in 2019 and accepting the request of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment to visit the country. It further commended the country for the moratorium on the death penalty and the absence of its use since 1993.

74. Finland expressed great appreciation for the engagement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the universal periodic review process.

75. France made recommendations.

76. Georgia valued the cooperation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as with other international mechanisms. It also welcomed the commitment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to establish a national human rights institution and the recognition of the need to devise a national action plan on human rights, for which it encouraged the Government to cooperate with OHCHR and other relevant international actors. It encouraged the country to move towards establishing an official moratorium on the death penalty.

77. Iraq welcomed the efforts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in implementing the recommendations it had accepted during the previous universal periodic review cycle and encouraged the country to ensure that such implementation was in line with the international human rights instruments it had ratified.

78. Brazil commended the efforts of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to align its socioeconomic development plan with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially aiming at attaining Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 5. It welcomed the country's poverty alleviation programmes, the creation of the National Child Rights Committee and the significant improvement achieved in ensuring a timely and universal birth registration system. Brazil encouraged Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to pursue a formal abolition of the death penalty.

79. In its concluding remarks, the delegation noted that the universal periodic review was not simply a tool for States to report on the human rights situation in a country; it also offered them an opportunity to share good practices to support positive human rights developments in all countries. Consequently, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated not only to inform, but also to learn, to highlight not only its strengths but also those challenges that it had faced over the last cycle that might have hampered the implementation of recommendations.

80. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had made great efforts to advance human rights at the national level, including the rights of women and children, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. The delegation recognized that there was still more work to be done and,

to that effect, the country was undertaking several legislative and policy reviews to tackle the many recommendations it had received. The delegation reiterated its sincere thanks to all States for the constructive dialogue and the recommendations received and assured that all contributions would be considered earnestly with the involvement of various stakeholders.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

81. The following recommendations will be examined by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council.

81.1 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty (Iceland);

81.2 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);

81.3 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal) (Argentina);

81.4 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal) (Finland);

81.5 Adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);

81.6 Maintain the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, by commuting the sentence of the last person sentenced to death, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);

81.7 Conclude the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi);

81.8 Complete ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Vanuatu);

81.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

81.10 Carry out the necessary actions to ratify the American Convention on Human Rights (Mexico);

81.11 Sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Panama);

81.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Ukraine);

81.13 Ratify the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption of 1993 (Namibia);

81.14 Sign and ratify international instruments to which it is not yet a party, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);

81.15 Consider accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of

the death penalty as well as consider accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

81.16 Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debates on the topic from a human rights perspective, including in Parliament, with a view to enabling as soon as possible its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);

81.17 Ratify or adhere to all pending Conventions, especially the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);

81.18 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Vanuatu);

81.19 Consider ratifying or acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);

81.20 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);

81.21 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (France);

81.22 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica);

81.23 Make progress towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and consider the possibility of acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);

81.24 Request technical support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance in the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the alignment of its national legal system with the obligations arising from ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);

81.25 Extend a standing invitation to special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Ukraine);

81.26 Extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Finland);

81.27 Consider extending a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Iraq);

81.28 Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Bahamas);

81.29 Engage with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to seek assistance in the implementation of the core international human rights treaties (Vanuatu);

81.30 Seek technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to meet international human rights obligations and to facilitate human rights training and education (Marshall Islands);

- 81.31 Request technical assistance from regional and international agencies to conduct training and the collection and analysis of data to enable the systematic implementation of human rights commitments (Barbados);
- 81.32 Continue its efforts to bring its national legislative framework into line with the international human rights instruments it has ratified (Algeria);
- 81.33 Establish and operationalize the national human rights institute in accordance with the Paris Principles, in consultation with stakeholders, in particular human rights organizations (Haiti);
- 81.34 Continue to take substantive measures to establish a national human rights institution and develop a national action plan of human rights for systematic and comprehensive actions for promotion and protection of human rights for all people in the country (Indonesia);
- 81.35 Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);
- 81.36 Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution, with a broad mandate to protect human rights, with adequate human and financial resources, and in accordance with the Paris Principles (Peru);
- 81.37 Advance the goal to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 81.38 Establish a human rights institution to observe the national human rights situation and in pursuance of an improvement to follow-up on recommendations and implementation of international human rights treaties (Marshall Islands);
- 81.39 Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico);
- 81.40 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine) (Chile) (France);
- 81.41 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles as a matter of priority (Australia);
- 81.42 Continue its efforts to create a national human rights institution with a broad mandate to protect human rights and with sufficient financial and human resources for its implementation (Algeria);
- 81.43 Establish an independent national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Finland);
- 81.44 Advance steps towards completion of feasibility studies related to the establishment of the national human rights institution (Georgia);
- 81.45 Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution that complies with the Paris Principles (Iraq);
- 81.46 Continue taking measures against discrimination in all forms (India);
- 81.47 Launch, in dialogue with civil society organizations, awareness campaigns aimed at addressing discriminatory gender norms and attitudes, including those that affect the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex population (Uruguay);
- 81.48 Consider adopting legislation which provides full and effective protection against discrimination and prohibits direct, indirect and intersecting discrimination, including measures for its effective implementation, with a particular emphasis on discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression (Chile);

- 81.49 Take all steps necessary to end discrimination against and stigmatization of LGBTI+ persons, including by amending the Criminal Code to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity (Ireland);
- 81.50 Decriminalize consensual adult same-sex relations and combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy);
- 81.51 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and undertake concrete measures to combat stigma and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Portugal);
- 81.52 Reform laws under section 146 and 148 of the Criminal Code of 1988 related to discrimination and gender-based violence against women and LGBTQI+ persons, including by repealing provisions that may be used to criminalize consensual, same-sex sexual activity between adults, and establishing a law criminalizing domestic violence (United States of America);
- 81.53 Reaffirm its commitment to the principle of non-discrimination by encouraging the necessary debates for the prompt decriminalization of consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Uruguay);
- 81.54 Adopt national anti-discrimination legislation, in particular for the LGBTQI+ population, including decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations (Costa Rica);
- 81.55 Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults by amending section 146 and 148 of the Criminal Code (Denmark);
- 81.56 Decriminalize same-sex relations and remove the buggery laws with respect to sexual acts between consenting adults (Israel);
- 81.57 Do not criminalize consensual sexual conduct between people of the same sex (Mexico);
- 81.58 Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct, by abolishing section 148 of the Criminal Code (Netherlands);
- 81.59 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations and review anti-discrimination legislation to ensure it provides comprehensive protection (Australia);
- 81.60 Decriminalize consensual sexual relationships between adults of the same sex and expand anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);
- 81.61 Decriminalize consensual homosexual relationships between adults and include legislation that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);
- 81.62 Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by repealing all laws criminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults (Canada);
- 81.63 Ensure that national anti-discrimination legislation provides for full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres and prohibits direct, indirect and multiple discrimination (Montenegro);
- 81.64 Take concrete and sustainable measures to combat the negative effects of climate change (Haiti);
- 81.65 Continue to take efforts to secure support and assistance from the international community in pursuing climate change adaptation and mitigation plans (India);
- 81.66 Continue to raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues by promoting access to information, public participation and environmental justice (Barbados);

- 81.67 **Develop further and implement the national climate change policy and its strategy aimed at mitigating impacts of climate change that increase people's vulnerability to poverty and social deprivation and threaten their enjoyment of human rights (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 81.68 **Continue to implement policies to mitigate the effects of climate change using a human rights-based approach (Dominican Republic);**
- 81.69 **Develop policies and programmes on climate change and disaster risk management by conducting consultations with the public (Maldives);**
- 81.70 **Develop and implement policies on climate change and disaster risk reduction and seek international cooperation in the implementation of such plans (Vanuatu);**
- 81.71 **Continue developing effective measures on climate change and disaster risk management (Nepal);**
- 81.72 **Seek international assistance and support in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters (Pakistan);**
- 81.73 **Ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities and local communities in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 81.74 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada);**
- 81.75 **Implement an official moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Ireland);**
- 81.76 **Establish an official moratorium on the death penalty, and conduct appropriate awareness-raising measures to mobilize public opinion for the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 81.77 **Establish an official moratorium on executions, and abolish the death penalty in national legislation (Costa Rica);**
- 81.78 **Conduct a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign to increase public understanding of international human rights standards as they pertain to the death penalty (Ireland);**
- 81.79 **Adopt a de jure moratorium on executions and adhere to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, with a view to formally abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**
- 81.80 **Advance towards the abolition of the death penalty and replace such penalty with a proportionate sentence in accordance with international human rights standards (Mexico);**
- 81.81 **Establish an official moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it and carry out appropriate awareness-raising measures to mobilize public opinion in support of the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**
- 81.82 **Continue the moratorium on the death penalty (Fiji);**
- 81.83 **Initiate a process for a State review and discussion of the relevance of the death penalty to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with a view to considering its complete abolition (Fiji);**
- 81.84 **Continue human rights-centred reforms of the law enforcement system, including the police (Armenia);**
- 81.85 **Bring its prison and detention conditions fully into line with international human rights norms and standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules (Denmark);**
- 81.86 **Take the necessary measures to improve the conditions of detention for prisoners (France);**

- 81.87 Intensify efforts to guarantee freedom of association and assembly (Italy);
- 81.88 Effectively investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons (Israel);
- 81.89 Improve the capacity of officials and institutions to investigate, prosecute and severely punish human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation (Malawi);
- 81.90 Strengthen the measures implemented to combat human trafficking, reinforcing the effective application of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, as well as its corresponding national plan (Peru);
- 81.91 Amend the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2011 to ensure there are proportionate penalties for all modern slavery-related crimes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 81.92 Further strengthen the provision of appropriate services to victims of trafficking, especially women and children, and facilitate their rehabilitation and social integration (Philippines);
- 81.93 Consolidate and implement a legal framework to protect children in relation to sale, sexual and labour exploitation, and the trafficking of children in the tourism sector (Mexico);
- 81.94 Continue its efforts to implement the national action plan to combat human trafficking (Tunisia);
- 81.95 Pay more attention to the prevention of human trafficking and the prosecution of perpetrators (Ukraine);
- 81.96 Reform the law to include provisions that expressly prohibit the use of children for prostitution, pornography or pornographic performances (United States of America);
- 81.97 Continue efforts aimed at strengthening the implementation of the national plan to combat trafficking (Georgia);
- 81.98 Support, through economic and social policies, the institution of the family and the preservation of family values (Haiti);
- 81.99 Align the minimum age of work to 16 years old to ensure that children can finish compulsory education (Mauritius);
- 81.100 Reform the labour code, within the next 12 months, to prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace, while ensuring its effective enforcement (United States of America);
- 81.101 Continue implementation of its socioeconomic development programmes to eradicate poverty and improve standards of living, including by providing sufficient funding, and develop more training programmes to increase employment and access to decent work, including through bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);
- 81.102 Continue with efforts to deal with COVID-19 induced socioeconomic challenges, strengthen the social protection system and tap into financing opportunities for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);
- 81.103 Continue advancing towards the eradication of poverty through its successful social welfare policies (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 81.104 Advance efforts to strengthen social protection and alleviate poverty (Barbados);
- 81.105 Further strengthen national policies and programmes aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 3 and the 2030 Agenda, with a

view to reducing poverty and improving the health and living conditions of the population (Dominican Republic);

81.106 Execute further efforts to fulfil international obligations for the promotion and protection of human rights by developing and implementing a comprehensive national social protection policy framework and strategy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

81.107 Consider establishing a national strategy, based on comprehensively collected information, with the aim of reducing child poverty, especially among those living in rural parts of the country (Serbia);

81.108 Strengthen existing measures on poverty eradication to address the issue of child poverty, especially among those living in rural areas (Malaysia);

81.109 Continue strengthening its national health system to protect the lives of its people, especially those most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

81.110 Address negative cultural attitudes by health workers against adolescent girls seeking contraceptive services, while respecting confidentiality and their right to privacy (Panama);

81.111 Formulate anti-discrimination legislation that protects people with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities (Spain);

81.112 Continue to prioritize the development of its education system, extending access to and increasing the quality of primary and secondary education, as well as the transition towards different modalities to deliver higher education (Cuba);

81.113 Amend the Education Act to explicitly allow for retention and re-integration of school-aged mothers and pregnant girls into the formal education system (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

81.114 Adopt a coherent strategy to ensure that students with special education needs are not left behind (Mauritius);

81.115 Continue to implement measures that allow integration of children with disabilities into mainstream education (Malaysia);

81.116 Implement specific measures to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities (Israel);

81.117 Ensure that comprehensive sexuality education, including reproductive health education, is included as part of the mandatory school curriculum (Israel);

81.118 Revise the existing family life education curriculum to align it with the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (Iceland);

81.119 Continue its efforts to reform the sexual offences legislation (Bahamas);

81.120 Proceed with the establishment of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines support and referral centre for attending to survivors of violence (Bahamas);

81.121 Continue implementing the provision of psychological, socioeconomic and empowerment services to victims of domestic violence, including cash transfers to victims and survivors (Kenya);

81.122 Strengthen the current system to combat domestic violence, as well as the support for victims (France);

81.123 Redouble efforts to curb domestic and sexual violence and abuse, as well as consider enacting legislation criminalizing sexual harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Brazil);

- 81.124 Continue efforts to strengthen laws against sexual crimes and prohibit marital rape and sexual harassment in the Criminal Code (Costa Rica);
- 81.125 Implement public awareness campaigns to end gender-based violence and violence against women and children (Canada);
- 81.126 Strengthen measures to address violence against women and girls (Barbados);
- 81.127 Implement legislation on sexual and gender-based violence, including marital rape and other forms of domestic violence and family violence; and ensure that victim-survivors can access justice, support mechanisms and necessary services (Australia);
- 81.128 Ensure that all perpetrators of abuse towards women and girls are held to account, and implement capacity-building training for police officers and other law enforcement officials in gender-based violence and sexual abuse reporting (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 81.129 Continue its efforts to prevent discrimination, violence against women and domestic violence, promote women's rights and support gender equality (Tunisia);
- 81.130 Ensure greater stakeholder involvement in the implementation of measures to combat gender-based violence (Philippines);
- 81.131 Redouble efforts to combat discrimination against women and reduce high rates of domestic violence, sexual violence and sexual abuse (Peru);
- 81.132 Urgently create a safe and functional institution for victims of gender-based violence and sexual abuse and implement capacity-building training for police officers and other law enforcement officials in gender-based violence and sexual abuse reporting (Panama);
- 81.133 Counter gender-based violence, including through the creation of an institution for victims of gender-based violence and sexual abuse, and by strengthening training for law enforcement personnel on gender-based violence and sexual abuse reporting (Netherlands);
- 81.134 Further strengthen legislation to prohibit any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or social status and especially to prevent any form of discrimination and harassment against women by including domestic violence as a criminal offence in the Domestic Violence Act (Marshall Islands);
- 81.135 Implement policy measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to preventing and punishing gender-based violence and promoting equal representation of women in political, social and economic spheres as well as leadership (Malawi);
- 81.136 Redouble efforts to complete the enactment of the prevention of sexual harassment bill in Parliament (Kenya);
- 81.137 Include marital rape and sexual harassment as criminal offences under the Criminal Code (Israel);
- 81.138 Consider taking necessary measures to strengthen legislation against gender-based violence and sexual abuse (India);
- 81.139 Increase availability of shelters for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and train law enforcement to apply a victim-centred approach to sexual and gender-based violence casework (Iceland);
- 81.140 Continue to take all necessary measures to effectively combat domestic violence and provide a victim-based approach (Indonesia);
- 81.141 Include domestic violence as a criminal offence under the Domestic Violence Act (Israel);

- 81.142 **Abolish corporal punishment by law and in practice, by enacting specific national legislation prohibiting corporal punishment in all environments (Israel);**
- 81.143 **Strengthen measures to protect women, girls and children from violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (Italy);**
- 81.144 **Implement measures to prohibit corporal punishment and promote a non-violent form of discipline (Spain);**
- 81.145 **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 (Marshall Islands);**
- 81.146 **Continue its efforts to guarantee the rights of the child and protect them from violence and sexual exploitation (Tunisia);**
- 81.147 **Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for boys and girls (Maldives);**
- 81.148 **Raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years (Mexico);**
- 81.149 **Consider the development and implementation of measures which allow the inclusion of persons with disabilities and combat discrimination against children with disabilities (Argentina);**
- 81.150 **Continue efforts to ensure the well-being of its population, in particular women, children and persons with disabilities, in the implementation of rebuilding strategies following the damage caused by the volcanic eruption (Cuba);**
- 81.151 **Increase accessibility to public buildings and transportation to allow the inclusion of all persons with disabilities (Canada);**
- 81.152 **Continue its efforts to create appropriate conditions and a legislative or institutional mechanism for vulnerable groups of women and children, and persons with disabilities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 81.153 **Take steps to enhance the access of migrants, including those in irregular situations, to judicial and other remedies available to them in cases where their rights had been violated (Philippines);**
- 81.154 **Put in place an effective legislative framework to protect workers against discrimination (Senegal);**
- 81.155 **Decriminalize irregular entry and ensure that the minimum guarantees enshrined in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families are respected (Senegal);**
- 81.156 **Consider revising its immigration laws, including by decriminalizing irregular entry and adjusting terminology on migrant children and persons with disabilities (Brazil).**
82. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Honourable Ms Keisal M. Peters, and composed of the following members:

- Mr Kezron Walters, Crown Counsel II, Ministry of Legal Affairs;
 - Mr Westford Joseph, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.
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