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H.E. Ms. Imthisha
Adam

Statement – St Lucia

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of St Lucia, a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States, to this 10th session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate St Lucia on the high quality of its national report and on the extensive consultation process that lay behind it. Both are significant achievements for a Small Island Developing States with limited resources. We would also like to thank the delegation for the replies provided to our Advance Questions.

Mr. President,

St Lucia, like the Maldives, faces enormous challenges in fully promoting and protecting human rights because of its smallness and because of its capacity constraints. It is important for this working group to understand and appreciate this fact as we conduct the review.

It is clear from the 3 reports before us that, despite these constraints, St Lucia has made remarkable progress in the field of human rights. The country enjoys a stable democratic political system with regular peaceful transfers of power, respect for the rule of law, and universal primary and secondary education. It has also made significant strides towards achieving the MDGs and in eradicating extreme poverty. St Lucia should be congratulated on these achievements.



That said, as with all countries, there is room for improvement, and with this in mind, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify ICCPR, ICRPD, CAT and the two Optional Protocols to the CRC.
2. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document as a way to streamline and reduce the burden of Treaty reporting.
3. Extend a Standing Invitation to Special Procedure mandate-holders as a way of informing and supporting human rights reforms.
4. In 2004, CERD expressed concern at prison conditions in St Lucia. With this in mind, the Maldives recommends that St Lucia gives consideration to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the CAT, and to establishing a National Preventative Mechanism.
5. Look to develop and support programs directed towards the formation and education of marginalized youth in St Lucia.
6. Continue its admirable international efforts to tackle global warming, including by reminding developed countries and other major emitting States of their obligation to help promote and protect human rights in St Lucia by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.
7. We recommend that St Lucia consider opening a small Permanent Mission in Geneva, using facilities provided by the newly-opened Commonwealth Small States Office.