



Statement – St Vincent and the Grenadines

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of St Vincent and the Grenadines, a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States, to this 11th session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate the St Vincent and the Grenadines on the very 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.

Mr. President,

St Vincent and the Grenadines, 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 Vincent and the Grenadines has made enormous progress in the field of human rights. It is party to all 8 core human rights conventions and has no reservations thereto. It has a strong, democratic system of government, an independent judiciary and a free media. In all of these sectors, women feature prominently. Moreover, despite the development challenges it faces as a Small Island State, the country has made important progress across key indicators including health, education and poverty eradication. It also has a strong record on child and disability rights.

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 the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a National Preventative Mechanism.
2. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document as a way to streamline and reduce the burden of Treaty reporting. This will help with the problem, acknowledged in the State report, of overdue Treaty reports.
3. Extend a Standing Invitation to Special Procedure mandate-holders as a way of informing and supporting human rights reforms.
4. The UN compilation report raises various concerns in the area of gender discrimination including violence against women. In light of this, we recommend that St Vincent and the Grenadines actively consider specific legislation in this area.
5. Establish a national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles.



6. We recommend that St Vincent and the Grenadines consider opening a small Permanent Mission in Geneva, using facilities provided by the newly-opened Commonwealth Small States Office.