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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Saint Lucia

* 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-seventh session from 18 January to 8 February 2021. The review of Saint Lucia was held at the 6th meeting, on 20 January 2021. The delegation of Saint Lucia was headed by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York, Cosmos Richardson. At its 10th meeting, held on 22 January 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Saint Lucia.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Saint Lucia: Bahrain, Brazil and Gabon.
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 Lucia:
 - (a) A national report¹ submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);
 - (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 Canada, Fiji, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Saint Lucia through the troika. Those 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 Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York introduced the national report of Saint Lucia to the Working Group.
6. The delegation noted that Saint Lucia was a small island developing State, which, since its independence in 1979, had demonstrated an unwavering commitment to multilateralism and to fulfilling its international commitments and obligations, including honouring its responsibility to advance and preserve the human rights of its citizens.
7. The onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had led to massive disruptions in the economies of small island developing States and resulted in severe setbacks, which threatened to reverse hard-won development gains. Countries like Saint Lucia that depended on a narrow range of economic activities had had to make choices between saving lives and livelihoods and other developmental initiatives.
8. The delegation reported on progress achieved since the previous universal periodic review cycle, in 2015.
9. Although Saint Lucia had not yet established a fully functional national human rights institution, in February 2019, the Government had inaugurated the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights as a precursor to establishing the national human rights institution. The Committee also served as the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up with a mandate to monitor and report on the national human rights situation. Spearheaded by the Department of External Affairs, the Committee included representatives of several government ministries, in addition to representatives of civil society organizations.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/37/LCA/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/37/LCA/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/37/LCA/3.

10. The delegation noted that, during the period under review, Saint Lucia had taken tangible steps towards the ratification of international human rights treaties. In June 2020, Saint Lucia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and acceded to the Optional Protocol thereto. In addition, in the same period, Saint Lucia had acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The ratification of and accession to those instruments were part of a gradual process for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, in keeping with target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Furthermore, the Government had initiated discussions with OHCHR for the provision of technical assistance in the development of plans to ensure that the rights accorded in those instruments had the full force of domestic law.

12. Continuing efforts to fulfil the country's international commitments in respect of the ratification of other human rights treaties included the participation by government officials in seminars hosted by the Convention against Torture Initiative Group of Friends in 2016, 2018 and 2020, with a view to the eventual signing and ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In addition, discussions with respect to the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were ongoing.

13. The delegation noted that, during the review conducted in 2015, the supply of potable, clean water to some communities had been highlighted and reference had been made to the commencement of a water supply redevelopment project; it reported that that project had been concluded in February 2020. It indicated that access to clean water was a critical component of sustainable development, as underlined in Sustainable Development Goal 6, and that its importance had been amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. Food and nutrition security was a critical element of government policy, in particular in the context of the challenges posed by the pandemic. Cognizant of the economic and social disparities that existed between children within the education system, and the impact that that could have on their educational advancement, the Government had developed a draft school feeding policy for the decade 2020–2030, with the support of the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. That policy ensured that every pupil at the primary and secondary school levels would be provided with nutritionally balanced meals during the school day. The delegation noted that Sustainable Development Goal 2 required that States endeavour to reach zero hunger by 2030, and it indicated that the draft school feeding policy had been a step taken at the national level to reduce and eventually eliminate hunger.

15. One of the steps taken since the previous review regarding the achievement of gender equality had been the conduct of a review of the national mechanism for the advancement of women. The national gender equality policy and strategic plan had facilitated that exercise, which was targeted at, among other things, the mainstreaming of gender equality into the national development endeavours of Saint Lucia.

16. The education sector development plan, 2015–2020, was aimed at increasing the accessibility and affordability of education for all citizens, including the promotion of gender equality. In recent years, there had been a growing trend of greater enrolment among women and girls compared with among men and boys, predominantly at the secondary and tertiary levels. While welcoming those trends, Saint Lucia was also mindful of the necessity of putting measures into place to ensure that young men and boys were not left behind and that all young people had equal access to quality education.

17. In addition, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has been confronted with the major challenge of ensuring that students, in particular those in vulnerable situations, had access to the tools needed to continue their education through distance learning.

18. The delegation noted that one of the growing global concerns was the increased risk of gender-based violence, in particular during the pandemic. It also noted that gender-based violence was one of the most persistent and underreported crimes in Saint Lucia. Mindful of

that reality, the Government of Saint Lucia had adopted a multisectoral approach in combating that scourge.

19. The delegation provided information regarding initiatives that had been adopted to combat gender-based violence, including the implementation in 2019 of the essential services programme by the Division of Gender Relations, in collaboration with the Women's Support Centre, and the country's participation in the strengthening State accountability project for ending gender-based violence in the Caribbean region. That project had entailed the creation of a data-collection system, through which information was collected from the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Women's Support Centre, the Saint Lucia Crisis Centre and the Family Court.

20. In addition, a comparative review of existing legislation was completed in September 2019, as a first step towards strengthening the national legislative framework. The proposed legislation would clarify the definition of domestic violence and provide recourse for all victims regardless of marital status, living arrangements or sex and address other factors impeding access to justice within the existing legislation.

21. The Government of Saint Lucia continued to prioritize the protection of children and young people. During the period under review, two critical pieces of legislation had been adopted, namely, the Child Justice Act and the Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act. A third bill, the status of children bill, was being drafted, and preliminary consultations were set to take place within the first quarter of 2021.

22. The delegation underscored that, in line with the country's continued efforts to protect the rights of children, corporal punishment had been abolished on 1 May 2020. It noted, however, that article 50 of the Education Act of 1999 had not yet been aligned with that executive order, given that the article still outlined conditions for administering corporal punishment in schools; the Government was working towards making the necessary changes to eliminate that discrepancy.

23. The delegation recalled that, in the national report, it had highlighted the advances made in facilitating access to justice, while noting existing challenges. Those challenges included the shortage of facilities and high court judges and the lengthy period of remand, due to the shortage of magistrates. The Government was in the process of implementing various strategies to rectify those deficiencies. One important step forward in facilitating access to justice during the period under review had been the reopening of the national forensic laboratory in 2017, after a two-year closure.

24. The delegation noted that, during the review conducted in 2015, reference had been made to allegations of "unlawful killings" by officers of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force in 2010 and 2011, in the context of a programme to address a rise in criminal activity. Those allegations arose from a report prepared by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security. Investigations into the matter had been delayed because of a vacancy in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution beginning in December 2015. Following the appointment of a Director of Public Prosecution in October 2016, the matter was fully investigated, including the arrest and interrogation of the accused. All files on the issue were now with the Director of Public Prosecution who would determine the next steps to be taken.

25. The delegation indicated that the Government had placed greater emphasis on addressing poverty in Saint Lucia, since the previous review cycle. Consequently, the country had facilitated a number of initiatives to reduce the poverty level through the reform of the country's social protection systems. They included, but were not limited to, increased government support provided through the public assistance programme, which was the largest national cash transfer programme.

26. In addition, as part of the COVID-19 response strategy, the Government of Saint Lucia had devised an economic recovery plan to stimulate the economy and protect lives and livelihoods. The plan comprised measures to preserve the social well-being of the population, including a 40 per cent increase in the number of households benefiting under the public assistance programme.

27. The delegation recalled the existential threat posed by the phenomenon of climate change and noted the challenges that arose from the inequities in the international finance and development architecture. It observed that small island States like Saint Lucia contributed the least to the causes of climate change yet were the most vulnerable to its effects, being at the front line thereof. Therefore, as outlined in the national report, Saint Lucia was taking steps at the national level and within a regional context to reduce the impacts of climate change. Moreover, Saint Lucia continued to call upon the major emitters to raise their levels of ambition and to further reduce and contain climate impacts, in keeping with the Paris Agreement.

28. The delegation noted that the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic had magnified the arguments, which had been consistently made by small island States over the years, that the methodologies which had been used by international financial institutions to determine the accessibility of those States to concessional financing for their development was flawed. The metric of gross domestic product per capita ignored the vulnerabilities of such countries and constrained their ability to gain access to financing for development on relatively favourable terms.

29. The COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in a contraction in the economy of Saint Lucia by at least 20 per cent in 2020 and had further highlighted the inequalities that existed both within and among countries. Saint Lucia had argued strongly that the COVID-19 vaccines should be “a global public good affordable and accessible to all, including the most vulnerable”. However, in reality, those who were endowed with resources were the first to benefit, while countries like Saint Lucia were relegated to the rear of the queue.

30. The delegation concluded by reiterating the commitment of Saint Lucia to upholding the human rights of its citizens and of all those within its borders. It noted that the country had taken stock of the recommendations received in the context of the previous review cycle and made conscious efforts to address many of them. However, the country still faced a myriad of challenges stemming from human resources and capacity constraints and financial limitations. Nonetheless, the Government of Saint Lucia would continue to work to ensure that the rights of all its people were protected.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

31. During the interactive dialogue, 58 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

32. Brazil commended Saint Lucia for the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights. Brazil also welcomed the efforts to ensure access to water, food and health care, as well as to combat child labour and poverty, and praised in particular the water supply projects and the assistance provided to impoverished households. Brazil took note of the efforts to address violence and discrimination against women and girls.

33. Canada commended Saint Lucia for the efforts undertaken to enhance the structures and resources in place to support survivors of gender-based violence. Canada noted that currently in Saint Lucia 2 of the 18 seats in its House of Assembly were held by women and encouraged the Government to take additional steps to foster greater representation of women in politics.

34. Chile commended the recent participation by Saint Lucia in the regional seminar of the Convention against Torture Initiative Group of Friends in December 2020 with the goal of making progress on the future adoption and implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto.

35. Costa Rica recognized the efforts made by Saint Lucia to mitigate the effects of climate change, in particular among the most vulnerable, and the recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

36. Cuba recognized the efforts in promotion of the advancement and empowerment of women, in particular through a revision of the national structures and the introduction of a gender perspective into development plans.
37. Denmark expressed concern that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were subjected to discrimination and stigmatization. Denmark commended efforts to protect sexual and reproductive health and rights, while noting with concern the high rate of adolescent pregnancy. Denmark highlighted the Convention against Torture Initiative and expressed its readiness to assist Saint Lucia in advancing towards ratification.
38. Fiji recognized the importance of ensuring that climate change and disaster mitigation policies and strategies were anchored in the national development framework and commended Saint Lucia for its national development plan and climate change adaptation policy. Fiji also commended Saint Lucia for the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.
39. Finland recognized the engagement of Saint Lucia in the universal periodic review process and made recommendations.
40. France welcomed the positive developments on ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms in Saint Lucia since 2017, but it expressed concern about the national context.
41. Georgia commended Saint Lucia for the ratification of various human rights instruments and noted the steps taken to attend to the needs of the most vulnerable segment of its population in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Georgia congratulated Saint Lucia for its efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination and for the adoption of a multisectoral approach in combating gender-based violence.
42. Germany commended Saint Lucia for its effective efforts in protecting the health and lives of its citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Germany remained concerned about the continued existence of the death penalty and about the continued criminalization of consensual sexual activity between persons of the same sex.
43. Ghana welcomed the recent adoption of domestic legislation, including the education sector development plan, 2015–2020, the Child Justice Act and the Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act. Ghana commended Saint Lucia for the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights, mandated to monitor and report on the national human rights situation.
44. Guyana welcomed the actions by Saint Lucia to implement recommendations received in the context of the second universal periodic review cycle and welcomed its following through on its commitment to addressing human rights reporting and coordination. Guyana recognized the achievements made while the country was facing resource constraints, the COVID-19 crisis, natural disasters and the threats posed by climate change.
45. Haiti welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of the national adaptation plan to combat climate change, 2018–2028, and the measures adopted to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local population.
46. Honduras welcomed the progress made and the results obtained in the implementation of the recommendations received in the context of the previous universal periodic review cycle, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.
47. Iceland welcomed the national report and the steps outlined therein and expressed its hope for their continued implementation.
48. India noted with appreciation that Saint Lucia was taking the measures necessary to address the impacts of climate change, including the revised climate change adaptation policy and the 10-year national adaptation plan process to mitigate the challenges.
49. Indonesia commended Saint Lucia for the efforts to combat gender-based discrimination, alleviate poverty and improve access to safe and clean water.

50. The Islamic Republic of Iran recognized that Saint Lucia was vulnerable to the consequences of climate change and indicated that it had yet to take effective measures and policies to mitigate those consequences.

51. Ireland welcomed the recent engagement of Saint Lucia with civil society organizations on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues. It encouraged Saint Lucia to continue that engagement and outreach to assist in implementing the recommendations on those issues received in the context of the current review cycle. Ireland also encouraged Saint Lucia to abolish the death penalty, including by implementing a formal moratorium on its use as a first step.

52. The delegation indicated that Saint Lucia was currently focusing on implementing the instruments it had already ratified before signing additional instruments. Although Saint Lucia had not ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, preparatory steps had been taken, and it was in the process of strengthening the capacity of relevant government officials through training courses and seminars. The Government intended to build on the knowledge gained to facilitate a national consultation prior to the eventual ratification of that treaty.

53. Concerning questions on the abolition of the death penalty, the delegation recalled that Saint Lucia had maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 1995. It noted that Saint Lucia had introduced new rehabilitative and restorative practices in its criminal justice system, which had recently led to the parole of two persons who had served more than 20 years in prison for murder.

54. On gender-based violence, the delegation noted that the Government had adopted a multisectoral approach in carrying out community training courses. In 2019, through the essential services programme, training courses for various community leaders, such as firefighters, teachers, nurses and other leaders, had been carried out to provide support through information and other resources to victims and persons at risk of domestic violence. The delegation observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the risk of gender-based violence and that the Government had invested in providing psychosocial support to those affected, and it noted the implementation of the project for enabling gender-responsive disaster recovery and climate and environmental resilience in the Caribbean. The delegation recalled the information provided in its national report regarding various initiatives adopted to combat domestic violence.

55. Concerning persons with disabilities, the Government was focusing on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Discussions had begun with the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights to develop a national implementation plan for the Convention and the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. The Government was aware that a lack of reliable data remained one of the major hurdles for policymakers, legislators and other stakeholders and therefore had initiated a national disability assessment in 2019. In addition, the Ministry of Education had embarked on a pilot project for providing reading support for students with print disabilities, to support the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

56. With regard to the alleged extrajudicial killings, as it had noted, investigations had initially been delayed because of vacancies in certain positions, including that of the Director of Public Prosecution. Subsequently, a director had been appointed and full investigations had been carried out. The delegation recalled that, because of the separation of powers, the Government could not interfere with the judicial process. It had provided the judiciary with the necessary support, including resources, and was hoping for a conclusion of the matter as soon as possible.

57. Regarding questions on discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people, the delegation noted that the Government had demonstrated a willingness to engage openly with civil society organizations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons. In addition, the Government had reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to engage with such organizations and further committed to addressing unfair discrimination regarding those communities.

58. Saint Lucia had continued to strengthen its social protection system for all its citizens. As a part of the COVID-19 response, an income support programme had been rolled out to assist those who had become unemployed. That initiative was a part of the country's wider social stabilization and inclusion programmes.
59. The delegation thanked the States that had made recommendations on the need to address the impact of climate change. Saint Lucia believed that a joint collaborative effort was the best approach to assisting countries facing that challenge. The delegation provided information regarding various initiatives adopted by Saint Lucia to address the issue of climate change.
60. Italy welcomed the development of new legislation on domestic violence that was meant to provide recourse and access to justice for victims, as well as the adoption of the Child Justice Act and the Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act to address neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence affecting children.
61. Jamaica congratulated Saint Lucia for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and accession to the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as for having passed the Child Justice and Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Acts in 2018. Jamaica noted that such action was particularly commendable in the face of the capacity constraints faced by Saint Lucia as a small island developing State.
62. Japan greatly appreciated that Saint Lucia had adopted a multisectoral approach to combating gender-based violence, recognizing that it was one of the most underreported crimes in the country.
63. Kenya commended Saint Lucia for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
64. Luxembourg congratulated Saint Lucia for the various steps taken to put into place a policy aimed at protecting and supporting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of children. It also commended Saint Lucia for the passage of the Child Justice Act and the Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act.
65. Malaysia was pleased to note that the Government had taken immediate action to protect the needs of the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, including by tackling unemployment relief and placing moratoriums on bank loan repayments. Malaysia welcomed efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination, including in the education sector, and commended Saint Lucia for the efforts to improve maternal and child health.
66. Maldives acknowledged the implementation of the climate change adaptation policy and the national adaptation plan to ensure that all citizens enjoyed basic human rights and freedoms in the face of climate change and natural disasters.
67. The Marshall Islands commended Saint Lucia for the initiatives to protect women and girls, most notably on the national plan of action to end gender-based violence. It welcomed efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, in particular through the establishment of a national adaptation plan, and its sectoral adaptation plans.
68. Mauritius commended Saint Lucia for its national and regional responses with regard to the policies on adaptation to climate change, especially its plan of relocation, entitled "Human mobility in the context of climate change, 2020–2023".
69. Mexico noted the suspension of corporal punishment in schools and urged the Government to harmonize the regulatory framework for its complete elimination. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
70. Montenegro commended Saint Lucia for its commitment to advancing the rights of vulnerable groups, acknowledged the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and accession to the Optional Protocol thereto and encouraged the country to invest additional efforts in curbing violence against children.
71. Morocco welcomed the introduction of the income support programme for non-contributors to the National Insurance Corporation who became unemployed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the accession by Saint Lucia to the WIPO

Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

72. Namibia noted the ratification by Saint Lucia of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the measures taken to address violence against women and girls, and urged OHCHR to provide the necessary technical assistance, as requested by the country.

73. Nepal commended Saint Lucia for its essential services programme and noted with appreciation the country's national plan and partnership of action to end gender-based violence, as well as its strategies aimed at preventing violence against women and girls in primary and secondary schools. Nepal expressed concern that climate change exacerbated the vulnerability of vulnerable and marginalized groups in Saint Lucia.

74. The Netherlands encouraged Saint Lucia to continue working towards the abolition of the death penalty. The Netherlands welcomed the national plan and partnership of action to end gender-based violence and the domestic violence bill and noted the remaining challenges concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially regarding young people, as well as the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

75. Panama highlighted the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of disaster risk reduction plans. Panama recognized the challenges faced by Saint Lucia, including climate change, food insecurity, child poverty and gender-based violence.

76. Paraguay encouraged Saint Lucia to continue its cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the implementation of recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review process. Paraguay welcomed the ratification by Saint Lucia of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its accession to the Optional Protocol thereto and expressed concern about the recruitment of children into gangs.

77. Peru recognized the progress made by Saint Lucia, including the approval of the Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act of 2018 and the Child Justice Act of 2018.

78. The Philippines lauded the efforts of Saint Lucia to strengthen its anti-trafficking in persons legislation and commended Saint Lucia for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

79. Portugal welcomed the ratification by Saint Lucia of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its request for technical assistance from OHCHR to support the implementation of the Convention.

80. Concerning questions on the justice system, the delegation indicated that the Government had prioritized the reduction in the backlog of cases before the Criminal Court. One of the causes of the long periods of remand was the difficulty faced in filling the positions for magistrates with qualified candidates. The Government had recently taken measures to address that issue and had committed itself to filling the remaining vacancies for magistrates by no later than mid-2021.

81. The delegation recalled that the Government had prioritized the protection of children and young people. It noted that the country had recently adopted two important pieces of legislation and that a bill was currently being drafted to ensure the rights of the child. It recalled that corporal punishment had been abolished in 2020. Child abuse was investigated by the Division of Human Services, the designated national agency for matters relating to children, and was also reported to the police for investigation pursuant to an established protocol. Public responsibility in addressing child abuse was also central to helping to curbing the problem. In addition, a series of public awareness-raising campaigns had been carried out.

82. Noting remarks regarding the ratification of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), the delegation indicated that that instrument had recently been ratified, in 2020. That ratification would assist the country in attaining Sustainable Development Goal 16 and in its environment-related programmes.

83. Regarding the participation of women in public life, the Government remained committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 in terms of achieving gender equality, and there had been some progress in that regard. The delegation noted that the Cabinet had four female ministers and that the Government was actively engaged in attracting more women into the political process.

84. The Russian Federation commended Saint Lucia for its accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted steps taken by the Government to reduce poverty and promote socioeconomic development.

85. Senegal welcomed the ratification by Saint Lucia of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and invited the international community to provide technical and financial assistance to the country in the execution of the programmes provided for in its national adaptation plan.

86. Serbia commended the authorities for their efforts in implementing recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle, in particular measures aimed at improving the situation of children.

87. Slovenia commended Saint Lucia for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted with satisfaction the suspension of corporal punishment in schools in 2020. Slovenia encouraged Saint Lucia to continue its efforts to combat domestic violence and violence against women.

88. Spain welcomed the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recalling that the national legal system of Saint Lucia should be harmonized with the Convention. Spain expressed concern about the high prevalence of violence against women, as well as about discrimination suffered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the context of the country's legal system.

89. Timor-Leste noted the challenges of climate change and welcomed the measures taken by Saint Lucia to identify and address climate risks and those aimed at building resilience. In particular, Timor-Leste noted the approval of the revised climate change adaptation policy in 2015.

90. Togo noted the efforts made by Saint Lucia to give effect to the recommendations received during the previous review cycle, in particular by strengthening the economic and social rights of the population, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

91. Trinidad and Tobago recognized that Saint Lucia faced a multiplicity of challenges in its efforts to ensure the full realization of human rights nationally, as well as the progress achieved in relation to its prioritization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Trinidad and Tobago encouraged Saint Lucia to intensify its dialogue with external partners aimed at achieving the technical assistance that it deemed necessary for it to further advance in the area of safeguarding human rights.

92. Ukraine noted the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights with a mandate to monitor and report on the national human rights situation. Ukraine encouraged Saint Lucia to continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

93. The United Kingdom welcomed the progress achieved on human rights, notably the work towards a domestic violence bill, and encouraged Saint Lucia to pass the bill into legislation as quickly as possible and to take further practical steps to reduce domestic violence against women, men and children. It also urged the Government to ensure that its correctional system met international human rights standards.

94. The United States of America commended Saint Lucia for its continued commitment to the promotion of human rights and encouraged it to increase transparency in its investigation of the alleged extrajudicial killings perpetrated in 2010 and 2011 and to ultimately prosecute those suspected of being involved in the crimes.

95. Uruguay acknowledged efforts to improve the human rights situation in Saint Lucia, welcoming the recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and urged the international community to offer Saint Lucia cooperation and technical assistance in implementing the recommendations received.

96. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but noted the remaining challenges in that area, in particular due to discrimination in access to employment and education. It indicated that Saint Lucia should make additional efforts to address gender-based violence, domestic violence and child labour.

97. Argentina extended its congratulations to Saint Lucia on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and with regard to the launch of the “Share the care” awareness-raising campaign, which had achieved high levels of empowerment.

98. Armenia welcomed the steps taken by Saint Lucia towards the implementation of the recommendations received in the context of the previous review cycle, notably the adoption of the legislation addressing the rights of children, in particular the Child (Care, Protection and Adoption) Act of 2018, and the Child Justice Act of 2018. Armenia noted with appreciation the suspension of corporal punishment in schools.

99. Australia acknowledged the progress made by Saint Lucia and expressed concern about the excessive use of force by the police. Australia urged Saint Lucia to introduce domestic violence legislation to protect women and girls. Australia also expressed concern that the death penalty remained part of the legal framework of Saint Lucia.

100. The Bahamas welcomed the ratification by Saint Lucia of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the national development plan, the progress made towards passage of the status of children bill and the development of the economic recovery plan.

101. Barbados appreciated the updates provided by Saint Lucia and its commitment to strengthening human rights protection for its citizens and those within its borders. Barbados commended Saint Lucia for its efforts, which were reflected in the ratification and/or accession to various human rights instruments.

102. Saint Lucia thanked the delegations for their interventions and substantive comments and for the positive manner in which they had participated in the interactive dialogue.

103. Saint Lucia welcomed the recommendations made and received them in a constructive spirit. Saint Lucia pledged to work ardently to continue to uphold its international obligations and to ensure that the rights of its people were protected, despite the country’s resource constraints. Saint Lucia looked forward to receiving the report on the review and the recommendations, notwithstanding the challenges that the country faced, including those relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

104. **The following recommendations will be examined by Saint Lucia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:**

104.1 **Continue its efforts in expanding the protection of the rights of persons through the ratification of additional treaties (Georgia);**

104.2 **Continue efforts to ratify the remaining core human rights treaties, namely, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);**

- 104.3 Consider the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);
- 104.4 Make progress in the ratification of human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);
- 104.5 Take concrete steps towards the ratification of core international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Philippines);
- 104.6 Conduct and complete legislative reviews and public awareness-raising efforts towards the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and seek any technical assistance required to that end (Bahamas);
- 104.7 Ratify the remaining core human rights instruments as promptly as possible, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ireland);
- 104.8 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and align domestic law to the treaties (Iceland);
- 104.9 Ratify the main international instruments on human rights, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Italy);
- 104.10 Ratify core international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 104.11 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as other core international human rights treaties (Russian Federation);
- 104.12 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and bring the domestic legal framework into line with its international obligations (Ukraine);
- 104.13 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Namibia);
- 104.14 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Senegal) (Mauritius) (Serbia) (Timor-Leste);
- 104.15 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 104.16 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto (Honduras);**
- 104.17 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto (Namibia);**
- 104.18 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland) (France) (Serbia) (Mauritius) (Timor-Leste);**
- 104.19 **Continue efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil);**
- 104.20 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (Indonesia);**
- 104.21 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (Germany) (Japan) (Luxembourg) (Fiji) (Mauritius);**
- 104.22 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Paraguay);**
- 104.23 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto (Denmark);**
- 104.24 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto (Costa Rica) (France);**
- 104.25 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**
- 104.26 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);**
- 104.27 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Germany) (Japan) (France);**
- 104.28 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**
- 104.29 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in line with targets 1.4, 4.3 and 4.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 5 (Paraguay);**
- 104.30 **Ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) (Costa Rica) (Uruguay);**
- 104.31 **Cooperate closely with the human rights special procedures by receiving the mandate holders on their visits (Ukraine);**
- 104.32 **Extend an invitation to 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 before the fourth review cycle under the universal periodic review mechanism (Panama);**
- 104.33 **Continue its efforts for the full operation of a standing national mechanism for implementation of and reporting and follow-up on human rights recommendations, through technical assistance and cooperation, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**
- 104.34 **Take concrete steps to address outstanding reporting obligations under the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee of the Rights of the Child (Slovenia);**

- 104.35 Continue collaboration with the United Nations system and international partners to address the constraints faced in the ratification of international instruments and in the domestic implementation of human rights treaties ratified by the country (Maldives);
- 104.36 Provide greater budgetary and financial resources to State institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, so that they can carry out their mission and meet their objectives, in line with targets 1.4, 4.3 and 4.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 5 (Paraguay);
- 104.37 Consider the creation of an independent national institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Togo);
- 104.38 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Peru);
- 104.39 Take the necessary measures to establish the national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya);
- 104.40 Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 104.41 Establish an independent national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Finland);
- 104.42 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Luxembourg) (Senegal) (Mexico);
- 104.43 Request technical assistance from OHCHR to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Panama);
- 104.44 Request technical assistance from OHCHR to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);
- 104.45 Continue its engagement with OHCHR and other international partners to secure technical assistance for the promotion of human rights (Jamaica);
- 104.46 Consider the implementation of human rights education and training initiatives (Philippines);
- 104.47 Give support, through economic and social policies, to the institution of the family and the preservation of family values (Haiti);
- 104.48 Provide targeted support to the institution of the family (Russian Federation);
- 104.49 Strengthen its domestic legislation to further advance the rights of women and enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities (Jamaica);
- 104.50 Implement the national action plan to recognize the needs of older and disabled persons (Kenya);
- 104.51 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 104.52 Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 104.53 Continue with awareness-raising campaigns on non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and decriminalize consensual sexual same-sex relations between adults (Costa Rica);
- 104.54 Provide effective measures to detect, prevent and combat discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation (Luxembourg);
- 104.55 Pass comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity and support public awareness-

raising initiatives on non-discrimination and social inclusion of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities (Ireland);

104.56 Consider adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation (Argentina);

104.57 Introduce legal and practical measures to eliminate discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including by repealing the current legislation, passing appropriate anti-discrimination legislation and raising public awareness (Netherlands);

104.58 Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation which will specifically prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

104.59 Adopt legislative measures aimed at protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination and, along those lines, above all, decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Spain);

104.60 Ensure the prompt decriminalization of same-sex adult consensual sex and implement the recommendations of the constitutional reform committee by passing specific legislation condemning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (Uruguay);

104.61 Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct and take concrete legal and policy measures to eliminate discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Portugal);

104.62 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and adopt the necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination or violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico);

104.63 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);

104.64 Decriminalize consensual adult same-sex relations by amending section 132 and repealing section 133 of the Criminal Code (Ireland);

104.65 Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults by repealing section 133 and amending section 132 of the Criminal Code (Denmark);

104.66 Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults by repealing sections 132 and 133 of the Criminal Code (United States of America);

104.67 Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations (Canada);

104.68 Decriminalize same-sex consensual relationships and take measures to prevent discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy);

104.69 Decriminalize homosexuality and adopt legislation on crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);

104.70 Repeal all provisions of law criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults and take legislative and other measures to protect victims of violence perpetrated based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Australia);

104.71 Take all necessary measures to strengthen the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, in particular in the current situation of extreme vulnerability that they face in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argentina);

- 104.72 **Revitalize measures for developing regional and national responses to the threats posed by climate change (Georgia);**
- 104.73 **Continue to take efforts to secure support and assistance from the international community in pursuing climate change adaptation and mitigation plans (India);**
- 104.74 **Continue to develop and implement successful climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and practices (Nepal);**
- 104.75 **Continue to promote and develop both regional and national responses to mitigate the impact of climate change (Barbados);**
- 104.76 **Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 104.77 **Consider imposing a moratorium on executions and take positive steps to abolish the death penalty (Fiji);**
- 104.78 **Immediately introduce an official moratorium on the death penalty (Germany);**
- 104.79 **Declare formally a moratorium on or the abolition of the death penalty, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Paraguay);**
- 104.80 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty (France);**
- 104.81 **Consider the abolition of the death penalty and replacing it with a penalty that is just, proportionate and in accordance with international human rights standards (Togo);**
- 104.82 **Consider eliminating the death penalty as an applicable criminal sanction in national legislation, commuting such sentences for other alternative penalties (Chile);**
- 104.83 **Advance efforts to abolish the death penalty, including through awareness-raising campaigns on human rights and alternatives to the death penalty (Mexico);**
- 104.84 **Abolish the death penalty and, if not, begin with declaring a moratorium with a view to its abolition (Costa Rica);**
- 104.85 **Abolish or establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Ukraine);**
- 104.86 **Establish a formal moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**
- 104.87 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and immediately introduce an official moratorium on the death penalty (Germany);**
- 104.88 **Fully 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 (Iceland);**
- 104.89 **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);**
- 104.90 **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 (Australia);**
- 104.91 **While noting the de facto moratorium on executions, 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 (Finland);

104.92 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, given that the death penalty continues to be in force in the country's Constitution (Spain);

104.93 Adapt the Constitution to abolish the death penalty and replace it with a sentence that is fair, proportionate and in accordance with international human rights standards (Luxembourg);

104.94 Consider the establishment of a legal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its definitive abolition, as previously recommended (Uruguay);

104.95 Consider the establishment and implementation of training programmes that include the appropriate use of force by the security forces in the country (Ghana);

104.96 Rapidly establish independent investigations into extrajudicial police shootings to ensure that the rule of law prevails and to bring perpetrators to justice (Canada);

104.97 Make every effort to effectively combat police impunity, in particular to put an end to extrajudicial executions (France);

104.98 Consider efforts to improve its judicial services by ensuring adequate protection for witnesses (Ghana);

104.99 Take measures to reduce the length of remand and detention without trial (Canada);

104.100 Implement additional measures to improve its criminal justice procedures (Jamaica);

104.101 Take measures to strengthen the judiciary to ensure its independence, as well as to ensure access to justice and to fight against impunity (Costa Rica);

104.102 Continue efforts to improve detention conditions (Senegal);

104.103 Enact reforms to prevent the physical abuse of suspects and prisoners and hold police and prison officials responsible for any abuses, take measures to shorten the length of pretrial detention and ensure that criminal defendants receive a trial without undue delay (United States of America);

104.104 Increase the pace of legal reform and improve the efficiency of the judicial system, by promoting legal literacy, combating low prosecution rates, increasing services to process evidence, especially for sex offenses, and increasing social protections and rehabilitation and psychoemotional support services (Australia);

104.105 Take sufficient measures to combat corruption (Islamic Republic of Iran);

104.106 Enhance the access to information law by enacting the freedom of information bill (Kenya);

104.107 Take specific and additional measures to combat human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);

104.108 Strengthen the implementation of its national action plan against human trafficking, commensurate with its efforts to legislate more robust penalties for traffickers (Philippines);

104.109 Continue implementing prevention measures and measures to confront trafficking in persons, focusing on protection, specialized assistance and social and community reintegration of victims of that crime (Cuba);

104.110 Increase efforts to eliminate human trafficking, including by improving the effectiveness of victim identification and support and improving

efforts to investigate, prosecute and sentence traffickers (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

104.111 Strengthen social policies in health, education and food in favour of its people, with special emphasis on the most excluded sectors of society (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

104.112 Make progress on economic and social recovery through a human rights-based approach to addressing the effects of the pandemic, taking into account the special needs of vulnerable groups in society (Chile);

104.113 Maintain its commitment to social protection initiatives, in particular as it seeks to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (Barbados);

104.114 Continue in its efforts to provide protection for older persons and persons with disabilities, including by improving access to health care (Guyana);

104.115 Ensure free and timely access to appropriate health care for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including children and adolescents where the young person has sufficient maturity to provide informed consent (Iceland);

104.116 Continue improving maternal and child health (Montenegro);

104.117 Recognize the role of health and essential workers in defending human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide a safe and enabling environment where they can conduct their work free from threats and intimidation (Indonesia);

104.118 Take further efforts to ensure all health and essential workers are able to protect themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic (Indonesia);

104.119 Guarantee all people access to sexual and reproductive health education and services and adopt a national strategy to prevent teenage pregnancy (Mexico);

104.120 Adopt effective comprehensive sexuality education programmes for young people, in line with United Nations technical guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education, to raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights (Netherlands);

104.121 Adopt the national sexual and reproductive health policy and draft a national action plan in line with the CARICOM integrated strategic framework to reduce adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean (Panama);

104.122 Revise the health and family life education programme to include education on healthy and respectful family life and interpersonal relationships, personal and shared values, cultural and social norms, human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, violence and gender-based violence, consent and bodily integrity, sexual abuse and harmful practices, in line with United Nations technical guidelines on education (Iceland);

104.123 Endorse a national sexual and reproductive health policy and ensure its swift and effective implementation with adequate resources (Malaysia);

104.124 Continue to progress on the adoption process for a national sexual and reproductive health policy (Peru);

104.125 Revise the health and family life education programme, especially to include components on healthy and respectful relationships, human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, violence and gender-based violence, in line with United Nations technical guidelines, and train competent facilitators or service providers to deliver the programme (Australia);

104.126 Revise the health and family life education programme to include comprehensive sexuality education in line with United Nations international technical guidelines on sexuality education (Denmark);

- 104.127 **Strengthen the health and family life education curriculum to comply with the revised international technical guidance on sexuality education, guarantee its implementation through the national school system and provide ongoing professional development for teachers to ensure that they are equipped to teach it (Fiji);**
- 104.128 **Take steps to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy, including by removing barriers to safe and confidential access to family planning services and information for those adolescents that have reached the legal age of consent (Bahamas);**
- 104.129 **Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information (Fiji);**
- 104.130 **Guarantee sexual reproductive health and rights by authorizing unconditional abortion and combating gender-based violence more effectively (France);**
- 104.131 **Continue providing quality education for all (Montenegro);**
- 104.132 **Take appropriate measures to reduce the inequalities that exist in the education system, in order to address the challenges faced by children with special needs and disabilities (Maldives);**
- 104.133 **Develop a national policy aimed at retaining and reintegrating pregnant students in the formal school system (Togo);**
- 104.134 **Continue in its efforts to develop an official policy for pregnant learner retention and their re-entry into the formal education system (Guyana);**
- 104.135 **Prioritize the completion of the draft school feeding policy, 2020–2030 (Bahamas);**
- 104.136 **Continue efforts aimed at the elimination of gender-based discrimination, including in the education sector (Georgia);**
- 104.137 **Take further efforts, including through international cooperation in capacity-building, for gender-mainstreaming in domestic law and public policy, in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Indonesia);**
- 104.138 **Strengthen legislation to protect women and girls from violence, including by criminalizing marital rape and establishing specialized police units to investigate crimes of violence against women (Brazil);**
- 104.139 **Adopt coordinated and adequately funded awareness-raising activities and programmes, targeting men and boys, aimed at changing attitudes and promoting positive masculine norms, with a view to combating violent behaviour, including through the use of social media and by funding the Division of Gender Relations (Haiti);**
- 104.140 **Take effective measures to increase awareness of and combat against domestic violence (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 104.141 **Take additional steps to eradicate domestic violence and provide protection guarantees for women and children (Canada);**
- 104.142 **Continue to implement measures to address domestic violence and gender-based violence (Kenya);**
- 104.143 **Take necessary measures to prevent, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women (Nepal);**
- 104.144 **Step up efforts to eliminate domestic violence and violence against women and girls (Peru);**

- 104.145 Intensify efforts to more effectively implement national legislation in the field of preventing and combating violence against women (Russian Federation);
- 104.146 Take further measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence, including domestic violence, in particular by giving full application to the law and ensuring that all involved stakeholders are adequately trained (Italy);
- 104.147 Adopt legislation aimed at combating gender-based violence, including marital rape (Spain);
- 104.148 Include in its legislative framework relating to domestic and sexual violence provisions on marital rape and a precise definition of violence against women (Luxembourg);
- 104.149 Strengthen and update national legislation to eliminate all forms of violence against women, focusing on domestic violence and sexual harassment in the workplace, in particular in the complaint procedures for and the prosecution of those crimes (Chile);
- 104.150 Increase the number of prosecutions of cases of gender-based violence, as well as the legal and psychological assistance provided to victims (Marshall Islands);
- 104.151 Strengthen the efforts to combat all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and provide adequate training for evidence collection (Portugal);
- 104.152 Take all the legal, administrative and institutional measures to eliminate domestic violence, in particular against women and girls, and to bring perpetrators to justice (Ukraine);
- 104.153 Adopt the necessary measures to prosecute and adjudicate cases of domestic violence and sexual violence, providing victims with assistance and access to justice (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 104.154 Create institutions and regulatory frameworks where women and girls can report gender-based violence without inhibition or fear of reprisal (Mauritius);
- 104.155 Further advance the implementation of the recommendations accepted in the context of the second universal periodic review cycle on addressing violence against women and domestic violence (Barbados);
- 104.156 Continue in its efforts to address child sexual abuse, domestic violence and gender-based violence (Guyana);
- 104.157 Develop and implement legislation that prohibits child marriage (Marshall Islands);
- 104.158 Set the minimum age of consent to marry at 18 years of age in order to move towards the eradication of child marriage (Mexico);
- 104.159 Ban corporal punishment against children and implement strategies to reduce school dropout rates (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 104.160 Employ further steps to combat child abuse and child labour (Armenia);
- 104.161 Promote appropriate actions and policies to combat child labour and to eliminate gender stereotypes in the workplace (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 104.162 Increase efforts to fully eliminate child labour, especially the worst forms of child labour (Marshall Islands);
- 104.163 Consider taking policy-oriented measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (India);

104.164 **Continue efforts to develop programmes and policies at the national level for the inclusion and the guarantee of all the rights of persons with disabilities (Cuba);**

104.165 **Adopt national asylum legislation and procedures, including a refugee status determination procedure, in order to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement (United States of America).**

105. **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 Lucia was headed by His Excellency Mr. Cosmos Richardson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Adria Rose Sonson, Permanent Secretary, Department of External Affairs of Saint Lucia;
 - Mr. Guillaume Simon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Department of External Affairs of Saint Lucia;
 - Mr. Carlton Henry, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York;
 - Ms. Bynta Ernest, Foreign Service Officer, Department of External Affairs of Saint Lucia.
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