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Saint Kitts and Nevis

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I. Introduction

1. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis continues to ramp up efforts to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens and residents. Consequently, Saint Kitts and Nevis is proud to provide an update on the developments of the human rights situation in country since its participation in the 3rd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2021 as well as outline challenges encountered and seek partnerships for future human rights-related plans and programmes.

II. Methodology

2. The general guidelines for universal periodic review reports proved helpful in preparing this 4th cycle National Report.

3. This report is the result of a consultative process led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with support from the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF), an inter-government agency that was established in 2018. It includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as chair, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Youth, Ageing and Disabilities.

4. Given that the initial members of this national architecture had transitioned out of the system or transferred to other departments, it was critical to sensitize the permanent secretaries and heads of departments about the mandate and request that they nominate a suitable officer to participate in the NMIRF. The Ministry organized a train the trainers' workshop for new and returning members.

5. The Government also engaged the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding the preparation of its national report and requested capacity building workshops for members of the NMIRF. The latter was realized in 2025 and facilitated by the Adviser for Human Rights based in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Barbados. The training heightened awareness about reporting to Treaty Bodies, the UPR and the UN Human Rights System in general. The outcome was positive - agency buy-in, greater consciousness about the process and appreciation for their role in the grand scheme of things.

III. Developments since the 3rd Cycle UPR review

A. Elections

6. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis held general elections in August 2022, over a year and a half subsequent to its 3rd Cycle UPR Review. Both the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of American States (OAS) have observed recent elections and deemed them to be generally free and fair. Although the elections resulted in a change in administration, the commitment to improve the human rights situation within the federation remained firm.

B. The Sustainable Island State Agenda 2040 (SISA 2024)

7. This resolve was evidenced by the government's flagship initiative, the Sustainable Island State Agenda, comprised of seven pillars: Energy Transition, Water Security, Food and Nutrition Security, Sustainable Industries, Sustainable Settlements, Circular Economy, and Health and Social Protection, which encapsulates its focus for the years ahead.

C. Participation in the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022-2026

8. Saint Kitts and Nevis was pleased to actively participate in the development of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022-2026, an instrument developed during COVID19 to address the vulnerabilities of countries that will adversely impact their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its priority areas of economic resilience and shared prosperity; equality and well-being; resilience to climate change and shocks, and sustainable natural resource management; and peace, safety, justice, and the rule of law align closely with the SISA, both people centered and rooted on the principle of “leaving no one behind.

D. The Country Implementation Plan (CIP)

9. Since the finalization of the 5-year MSDCF, Saint Kitts and Nevis, in collaboration with the UN Systems, has developed the UN Country Implementation Plan 2022-2023 and 2024-2025. These plans outline in detail the planned programmatic actions of UN agencies, funds, and programmes in Saint Kitts and Nevis to advance the 2030 Agenda, focusing on building resilience and progress following the COVID-19 pandemic. These plans are reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure interventions are apt to achieve the expected deliveries toward the 2030 SDG Goals.

E. The National Development Planning Framework (NDPF) 2023-2037

10. In January 2024, the Cabinet approved the National Development Planning Framework (NDPF) for 2023-2037. This plan is intended to facilitate an enabling environment for the implementation of the SISA. *Inter alia*, the implementation plan outlines some development priorities including social protection with a focus on the most vulnerable groups in society.

F. Voluntary National Review (VNR)

11. Saint Kitts and Nevis presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York on July 18, 2023. This mechanism assesses a country’s national progress and challenges encountered in implementing the UN’s 2030 Agenda. The following excerpt from its Key Messages articulates the Government’s reaffirmation of its commitment to cater to the marginalized in the society:

“The government’s top priorities are improving health and well-being, building social cohesion, and protecting the most vulnerable; mainstreaming gender, youth, and persons with disabilities across all policies and initiatives; and improving the access to and affordability of education”.

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

12. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has a proven track record of developing its human rights system, redounding to the benefit of members of society, especially those considered most vulnerable. The following initiatives are included as proof.

A. Establishment of a new line ministry

13. On the swearing in of the executive of the new administration in August 22, the Government established the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing and Disabilities, to provide focused policy direction on matters affecting youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Since its inception, the Ministry has led public awareness campaigns, facilitated

community engagement, and supported programs that advance social inclusion and promote the rights and dignity of these groups.

B. Increase in minimum wage

14. During his 2023 Budget Address, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, announced an increase in the national minimum wage in a two-stage process. In the first instance, the minimum wage increased from \$9.75 per hour to \$10.75 per hour with an effective date of 1 January 2024. Subsequently, in July 2025 the wage further increased to \$12.50 per hour.

C. Digitalization

15. The Ministry of Health is currently involved in the digitalization of the civil registry in Saint Kitts and Nevis. This will bring several benefits to the people, including:

- Easier access to records online, which can simplify processes such as applying for documents or verifying personal information.
- A digital system that can offer better security features, ensuring that personal data are protected and reducing the risk of loss or damage to physical records.

D. Legal and institutional reform

Strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsman (130.44)

16. The Ombudsman (Amendment) Act No.17 of 2024 revised the Ombudsman's remuneration and tenure, reflecting modernised governance needs. It now enables the Ombudsman's Office to act simultaneously as the Information Commissioner, consolidating oversight roles and avoiding duplication. It also regularises and safeguards resource allocation to support the expanded responsibilities.

17. These changes allow the office to be better able to carry out investigations, process Freedom of Information requests, and issue recommendations. With the combined role of Ombudsman and Information Commissioner, the office can handle both maladministration and public information access more holistically.

Social Protection Bill, national social protection strategy and action plan, and the development of the gender policy (130.102, 130.108)

18. Through support from UNICEF, a National Social Protection Policy and Action Plan (2025-2030) was drafted. The policy framework focuses on the increasing risks to children and families, inclusive of those related to climate change, economic shocks and future pandemics.

19. This is inclusive of an overarching response to poverty and vulnerability with a strong emphasis on the protection of children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

20. The Cabinet's review of the draft policy is a major step toward its formal adoption. Once implemented, this policy will serve as a foundation for Saint Kitts and Nevis' aspirations to reduce poverty, close equity gaps, and build a more inclusive and resilient society.

Amendment to the Housing and Social Development Levy (Amendment) Bill, 2025

21. On 10 July, 2025, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis passed a key amendment to the Housing and Social Development Levy (Amendment) Bill, 2025. This amendment ensures that individuals earning the national minimum wage of \$500 per week, as well as those earning slightly above that threshold (up to \$520 per week or \$27,040 annually), will no longer be subjected to deductions under the levy.

22. This decision was taken after recommendations made by the National Minimum Wage Advisory Committee which received strong endorsement from the St. Christopher and Nevis Social Security Board.

23. It aims to protect low-income earners, fostering the promotion and building of an inclusive and equitable society.

Further legislative reform under the good governance agenda

24. In keeping with its commitment to strengthening the rule of law and advancing good governance, Saint Kitts and Nevis has enacted a series of legislative reforms since the 3rd Cycle Review. These measures reinforce accountability, transparency, and protection of rights across multiple sectors.

(a) Criminal justice:

- *Proceeds of Crime and Asset Recovery Act, 2020* – enhances the framework for tackling money laundering and recovering illicit assets.
- *Anti-Terrorism Act, Cap 4.02* – establishes offences and procedures to counter terrorism in accordance with international obligations.
- *Anti-Proliferation (Financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction) Act, Cap 4.43 and Regulations* – introduces measures to prevent proliferation financing and ensures compliance with international standards.
- *Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Act, 2023* – modernises rehabilitation provisions and supports offender reintegration.
- *Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Act, 2024* – broadens the jurisdictions with which Saint Kitts and Nevis can cooperate in criminal matters.
- *Justice Interference Prevention Act, 2024* – provides safeguards for witnesses, especially vulnerable persons, from intimidation and interference that may undermine justice processes.
- *Extradition Act, 2025* – repealed and modernised to align with evolving international cooperation standards.

(b) Child care and protection:

- *Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act, 2024* – complements the *Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, Cap 4.40* by criminalising smuggling, promoting international cooperation, and protecting smuggled persons. It includes specific child-protection provisions: ensuring access to education, safeguarding privacy and confidentiality, prohibiting detention, and mandating placement under child protection services with legal guardianship where necessary.

25. Collectively, these reforms reflect the Government's good governance agenda and demonstrate concrete progress in strengthening its legislative framework in line with its international human rights commitments.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms: treaty bodies (130.40)

26. Saint Kitts and Nevis has maintained cooperation with the treaty bodies through the submission of its combined 5th–9th CEDAW report (reviewed October 2022) and its second CRC report (reviewed January 2025), with follow-up action plans now underway. At the same time, reports under CERD, CRPD, and CAT remain outstanding, largely due to capacity constraints. To address this, the Government is strengthening the role of the NMIRF and benefited from OHCHR training in 2025. Technical assistance is requested to support backlog clearance and sustained engagement with the treaty bodies.

**Cooperation with human rights mechanisms and request for technical assistance
(130.49, 130.50, 130.51, 130.112)***Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*

27. Saint Kitts and Nevis submitted a combined report covering its fifth to ninth periodic reports. The CEDAW Committee considered said reports in October 2022. Experts acknowledged the government's efforts in adopting certain policies to advance women's rights. The competent authority of Saint Kitts and Nevis also provided responses to the Committee's concerns and observations and attempts to address these are ongoing.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

28. In October 2024, Saint Kitts and Nevis submitted its second periodic report. The Committee considered said report at its meetings held virtually on 16 and 17 January 2025, adopting the concluding observations on 31 January 2025. In welcoming the progress achieved in several areas, including the National Social Protection Strategy and Plan of Action, in 2021, the National Child Protection Protocol, in 2022, and the increase in budgetary resources to implement children's rights. The Ministry of Social Services et al has begun to implement the recommendations after the Committee's adoption of the reports.

29. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis collaborated with the UNRCO in Barbados, to conduct a two-day workshop in Saint Kitts and Nevis during the period 14–15 October, 2024.

30. The first day focused on the list of issues Saint Kitts and Nevis received from its second periodic report on the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

31. The second day concentrated on the NMIRF – what it is, its purpose, and the role each agency plays in the implementation and follow-up of recommendations of the former cycles.

32. The 37th Session of the UPR Working Group reviewed Saint Kitts and Nevis in January of 2021. Of the 165 recommendations received Saint Kitts and Nevis accepted 69, an 18.97% increase over the 2015 review.

Establishing a national human rights institution (130.45, 130.46, 130.47, 130.48)

33. The Concluding Observations received after the submission of the report on the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that the Probation and Child Welfare Board play a role in establishing a National Human Rights Institution. The Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs has included as a task in the Country Action Plan for the CRC to review and ascertain the legal framework necessary for the establishment of an NHRI.

V. Protection of human rights**A. Cross cutting issues****Equality and non-discrimination (130.52, 130.53, 130.109, 130.139)**

34. Saint Kitts and Nevis reaffirms its commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. This commitment is reflected in a range of constitutional guarantees, legislative provisions and policies designed to ensure that the rights of these groups are protected in law and realized in practice.

35. The Ministry of Education has taken measures to ensure that Guidance and Counseling programs have gender balance at the secondary level of education. As such, each secondary school has a male and female guidance counselor to support gender responsive intervention services.

36. The Department of Gender Affairs on both islands facilitate Boys Mentorship Programmes aimed at the empowerment of boys enrolled in secondary schools. Male role

models positively influence the boy child through mentor-mentee relationships, and training and development sessions. To date, four chapters have been rolled out to secondary schools in Saint Kitts, and three chapters on the island of Nevis.

37. Gender inclusivity was also broadened through a vocational training initiative launched in April 2024, which provided opportunities for men, whilst offering skills and training for women in sectors that are usually dominated by males, reflecting a more balanced approach to a gender-inclusive workforce.

38. On 15 May 2024, the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs hosted its first inter-ministerial meeting for gender focal points. This engagement supported preparations for the national review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and enhanced coordination on gender equality across ministries.

39. Two National Men's Symposiums were held: one in Nevis on 21 November, 2024 and the other in Saint Kitts on 25 July, 2025. The symposiums served as a platform for addressing issues affecting men and boys in our society. They were held under the theme "Men's Voices Matter: Empowering Men for Gender Equality". Various topics were discussed including fatherhood, finance, breaking barriers and mental wellness.

Environmental issues (130.75, 130.76, 130.77, 130.78, 130.79)

40. The Federal Parliament of Saint Kitts and Nevis successfully passed the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (Agreement) Bill on 2 August, 2024. The Bill aims to strengthen the nation's partnership with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre with hopes of fostering collaborative efforts to address the issues posed by climate change.

41. The objective of the Centre includes protection of the climate system of its members for the benefit of present and future generations; enhancement of regional institutional capabilities for the coordination of national responses to the negative effects of climate change; provision of comprehensive policy and technical support and spearheading regional initiatives while also performing the role of executing agency for regional environmental projects relating to climate change.

42. Additionally, the National Conservation and Environment Management Bill had its first reading in 2024. This Bill will replace the 1987 National Conservation and Environment Protection Act and will empower the Department of Environment to designate land-based protected areas, prevent and control pollution and incorporate international environmental obligations into national law.

43. In 2024, Saint Kitts and Nevis implemented a phased approach to the ban on single use plastics. The first phase involved a ban on the importation of T-shirt plastic shopping bags as of 31 December 2024. This was followed by a ban on the sale and distribution of these bags on 31 March 2025.

44. Phase 2 involved a ban on the importation of Styrofoam food containers and plastic straws which came into effect on 30 April 2025. The sale and distribution of the same items was banned on 31 July 2025.

45. The final phase involved banning the importation of single-use plastic cups, plastic plates, and plastic utensils with effect on 31 August 2025. This is to be followed by a ban on the sale and distribution of the same products on 30 November 2025.

46. In April 2025, Saint Kitts and Nevis hosted the 3rd Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the Escazú Agreement. Approximately 200 participants from 31 nationalities, including environmental human rights defenders, government representatives, civil society organizations, and international experts attended the meeting.

47. Proposals emanating from the meeting included plans for a regional assessment about environmental defenders. Further, a gender perspective was incorporated in the meeting with clear, actionable recommendations for gender-responsive protection mechanisms.

B. Civil and political rights

Prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, (including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (130.19))

48. Saint Kitts and Nevis has been working to implement the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) obligations by developing anti-torture legal frameworks, providing specialized training for law enforcement, and strengthening its human rights agenda with the help of regional and international partners. These efforts contribute to a broader justice reform agenda, aiming to strengthen institutions, improve law enforcement standards, and advance the protection of human rights in line with SDG 16.

49. In September 2025, it hosted a sensitization workshop co-organized by CTI with the OHCHR Office for the Caribbean Community, in collaboration with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Address the issue of gang-related violence and homicide (130.95)

50. Most gang-related violence and homicides are committed with firearms. The Firearms (Amendment Act) of 2024 increased the penalties for persons who illegally import or export a prohibited weapon; manufacture and deal in firearms and ammunition; illegally possess a firearm; and possess a firearm with the intent to commit or to aid in the commission of a felony; or to resist or prevent the lawful apprehension or detention of himself or another person.

51. In September 2024, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis launched the 90-day Campaign Against Violence and Crime and subsequently established a Citizen Security Secretariat which is supported by a multi-stakeholder Citizen Security Advisory Committee. It is designed to engage all of society in tackling the issue of crime and violence with a view to making citizen security a top priority.

52. Activities including community consultations, youth-focused programs, enhanced collaboration with faith-based and non-profit organizations brought together a cross-section of the community, focusing on the power of a united approach in addressing the nation's challenges and contributing to shape safer, more cohesive communities.

53. The initiative also prioritized mental health support, educational outreach, and rehabilitation programs within the prison system to address the root causes of crime.

54. In December 2024, there was a notable 19% reduction in overall reported crimes and a substantial 66% decrease in firearm-related homicides after completion of the 90-Day Campaign.

Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law (130.98)

55. Section 18 of the Constitution provides a mechanism for individuals to seek redress in the High Court if they believe their constitutional rights have been violated. This constitutional framework ensures that public officials are subject to the rule of law and can be held accountable for violations of these rights.

56. Saint Kitts and Nevis has embarked on a broad criminal justice reform agenda recognizing that effective justice reform requires not only legislation but also capacity building. The Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs has prioritized the training of justice actors across the system in collaboration with UNDP, OHCHR, CTI, and other international partners. Key initiatives include:

- UNDP – Restorative Justice & Criminal Mediation Training (Nov 2024): Introduced restorative justice principles and mediation techniques to Crown Counsels, rehabilitation officers, social development officers, and community officers, laying the foundation for diversion and community-based justice pathways.
- UNDP – Performance Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E) Training (July 2025): Delivered to Crown Counsels to embed results-based management in justice reform. Modules included justice sector planning frameworks, logic models and theories of

change, SMART indicator development, monitoring plans and tools, and evaluation approaches with an emphasis on gender-responsiveness and institutional learning.

- UNDP – Case Management Training for Judges, Magistrates, Registrars, Prosecution, and Defence (Sept 2025): Focused on practical case management protocols, readiness checklists, and strategies to reduce adjournments and trial delays, directly addressing backlogs.
- OHCHR – Prison Officer Training (22–23 July 2025): Strengthened knowledge on international standards and best practices concerning the human rights of persons deprived of liberty. Covered conditions of detention, registers, inspections, complaints mechanisms, treatment of vulnerable groups, and rehabilitation and reintegration approaches.
- OHCHR – Crown Counsels Training (24–25 July 2025): Focused on international human rights standards in the administration of justice, including arrest, detention, and pre-trial guarantees, independence and impartiality of justice actors, rights of persons deprived of liberty, and mainstreaming non-discrimination in access to justice.
- CTI–OHCHR–OECS – Human Rights and UNCAT Training (8–9 Sept 2025, Basseterre): Strengthened national implementation of obligations under the UN Convention against Torture, with emphasis on investigative interviewing, safeguards in detention, and practical approaches to prevention of torture and ill-treatment.

57. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate a whole-of-system approach to justice reform, strengthening prosecutorial practice, judicial efficiency, detention conditions, and accountability mechanisms. They complement ongoing reforms in restorative and community justice, contributing to SDG 16 and the country's UPR commitments to strengthen the rule of law.

Fundamental freedoms and participation in public and political life (130.131, 130.132, 130.133, 130.134, 130.135)

58. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis reaffirms its commitment to promoting gender equality and advancing the participation of women in decision-making and political leadership. Women continue to hold key leadership positions across the political, legal, and public service sectors in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

59. As of 2025, women occupy several prominent roles; the Governor-General, the Deputy Governor-General, Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

60. While elected female representation in the National Assembly is currently limited to one, women comprise 66.7% of the Senate, holding two of the three highest positions. Currently, two females lead longstanding national political parties on Saint Kitts and Nevis, further reflecting growing engagement in political leadership.

61. Beyond electoral politics, women have a strong presence in the judiciary and civil service, currently constituting 80% of the Magistracy across the Federation, one-third of the High Court Judges assigned to the jurisdiction, and all Registrar and Deputy Registrar positions, including the Registrar of the High Court, Lands, and Companies.

62. The Head of the Civil Service is female, and women are well represented among Permanent Secretaries, occupying 13 of the 18 positions available. Additionally, women occupy key administrative roles within the legislative branch, including the position of Clerk of the National Assembly.

63. On the Island of Nevis, females serve as Speaker of the Nevis Island Assembly (N.I.A.), junior ministers in the Nevis Island Administration and Legal Advisor to the N.I.A.

64. These trends underscore the country's progress in fostering gender-balanced representation across sectors.

Strengthening good governance and public accountability

65. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has advanced legislation to strengthen transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in public life. These measures are designed to promote open governance, deter corruption, and ensure that citizens can access information and hold public officials to account:

- Freedom of Information Act, 2018 and Freedom of Information (Amendment) Act, 2024 – provide citizens with the right to request and access government-held information, with the amendment modernising compliance and timelines.
- Freedom of Information Ordinance (Nevis) – extends access to information rights at the island level.
- Integrity in Public Life Act and Integrity in Public Life Ordinance (Nevis) – establish Integrity Commissions, asset declaration requirements, and conflict-of-interest safeguards.
- Anti-Corruption Act, 2023 – criminalises corrupt practices, including bribery and abuse of office, and empowers investigations.
- Procurement of Contract (Administration) Act, Cap. 23.36 – sets transparent rules for public procurement and contract oversight.
- Finance Administration Act, Cap. 20.13 – strengthens public financial management, budgeting, and auditing controls.
- Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2023 – protects individuals who report misconduct in the public interest from retaliation.
- Ombudsman Act, Cap. 3.22 – provides independent oversight of complaints of maladministration.
- Official Gazette Act, 2023 – enables digitalisation of the Gazette, ensuring public access to laws, subsidiary legislation, judgments, and official notices.

Prohibition of all forms of slavery (130.99)

66. The Labour inspectorate process seeks to identify cases of forced labour wherever work is carried out. Through the power of the Labour Commission (Labour Act 18.18.11. Duties of the Inspector), and by extension a labour officer can inspect any place where work is done.

67. A Country Accelerated Plan is being developed to address issues of child labour within the workplace and society. Although Saint Kitts and Nevis was identified as a nation of low incidents of child labour, the aim is to develop policies to identify, educate and ultimately eradicate child labour, even in subliminal forms. These forms may include customary/traditional family practices around the home or family businesses.

68. Local law review is ongoing and current emerging challenges associated with returning nationals after deportation, migrants and victims of human trafficking will be looked at.

Right to privacy and family life (130.100)

69. Under the domain ‘Agents of Socialisation’ of the Gender Policy, one strategic goal is to strengthen the family as a healthy and cohesive unit and to promote and uphold the elimination of discrimination and gender equality for all. Example of strategic objectives include promoting positive messaging, reinforcing the role of father/men as caregivers, and investment in community-level parent education.

70. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) developed by the Probation and Child Protection Services pertaining to the family, covering topics such as co-parenting, highlighting its importance on the family institution are currently ongoing.

71. Annually on 15th May, the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs commemorates International Day of the Families and has expanded to celebrate National

Family Month from Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day, incorporating our nationally recognized Child Month in June.

72. Activities are organized at the community level to facilitate cohesion and information sharing.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

International covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (130.30, 130.31)

73. On November 1st, 2024, Saint Kitts and Nevis became the 173rd State to ratify this covenant. Since then, steps have been taken to align national policies with its provisions, including the drafting of a National Social Protection Policy and Action Plan (2025-2030), the Livelihood Improvement for Family Transformation (LIFT) Programme, and expanded measures for access to health, education, and social security. The Government remains committed to progressively realizing the rights enshrined in the Covenant and is seeking technical assistance to strengthen data collection and reporting.

Right to an adequate standard of living (130.103, 130.104, 130.105, 130.106, 130.107)

74. In 2024, the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs launched the LIFT Programme. LIFT modernizes and improves earlier programmes, such as the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) and the Mould, Empower, Nurture, and Direct (MEND), with a more comprehensive structure to support vulnerable households.

75. LIFT increases the benefits available to eligible families (up to EC\$600 per month) and provides opportunities for self-development. Priority is given to unemployed individuals, single parents with child/children, persons with disabilities or their caregivers, and seniors (aged over 62 years).

76. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis introduced the Budget Boost Wallet (BBW) in January 2025, which is designed to provide direct financial relief to eligible residents with gross earnings of EC\$5,000 or less per month. Pensioners are ineligible for the BBW initiative as it is designed for individuals currently contributing to social security.

77. To lessen the financial strain families face at the start of the school year, a temporary tax relief on school supplies was approved. During this period, essential educational items were exempted from Import Duty, VAT, and Customs Service Charge, reducing costs for parents and guardians.

78. In addition to that, the Government also introduced a Back-to-School Voucher Initiative, offering vouchers valued at EC\$250 per child, to ease educational costs for families of public primary and secondary school students.

79. The Government went a step further and updated the School Uniform Assistance Programme, ensuring that students from disadvantaged households could continue to receive the necessary support to access schooling.

80. To help promote these measures, a new online portal was launched to streamline applications for school-based assistance programmes, making it easier for families to access available support.

Right to health (130.110, 130.113)

81. In its efforts to continue the combat against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health implemented four robust measures to safeguard the public. These measures include contract tracing, COVID-19 testing, vaccination and restriction of movement.

82. The most important and effective measure in Saint Kitts and Nevis that prevented the mass spread was the vaccination drive, which began in February 2021. It achieved a commendable coverage within four months as 66.3 percent of the Federation's target population was covered with the first dose of the vaccine, while 31 percent were fully vaccinated.

83. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis provided free access to the Oxford University/AstraZeneca Vaccine at various community health centres on each island.

84. A comprehensive communications strategy was implemented by the Ministry of Health in relation to the public education campaign about the Oxford University-AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccination Programme both in Saint Kitts and in Nevis.

85. The main goals of the communication strategy were to increase the level of acceptance and build confidence in the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine by the general population, and to position the COVID-19 vaccines as an additional element in the public health service to protect against the disease.

General principles

86. The Family Health Program, one of the national priorities in Saint Kitts and Nevis, is operated under a Primary Health Care Conceptual framework. There is universal access to services offered at a well-distributed network of health centres; operating on the guiding principles of universality, equity, quality and sustainability.

87. Services offered included sexual reproductive health; vaccination/immunization; minor treatments; home visits; men's health; management of chronic non-communicable diseases; communicable disease prevention and control; port health; mental health; care for the elderly; and community health outreach.

88. The Pediatric Assistance League of Saint Kitts and Nevis (PALS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the availability of essentially needed medical treatment and health care to the children of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Established in 1990, PALS has financially assisted hundreds of children to receive emergency medical care over the last 35 years.

Mental health

89. A comprehensive mental health service is managed by the psychiatric Nurse Managers with specialist care. Services include case management, home visiting and follow-up, and general psychiatric clinic around the island, with an extension to His Majesty's prison.

90. In July, 2024 the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in collaboration with a key bilateral partner launched the Mental Health Service System Enhancement Project. The project is designed to strengthen the offerings and accessibility to mental health services by bridging the gaps in the prevention, screening, early detection and treatment of mental health disorders, including but not limited to anxiety, bipolar disorders and schizophrenia.

Child welfare services

91. Child Welfare services continue monthly, targeting children birth to 5 years with primary prevention measures such as vaccination, assessment for growth and development and nutritional surveillance. As with all other services at the health centres, medical care is available on a weekly basis from the District Medical Doctors.

School health program

92. Each health centre is assigned to schools in health districts. Services include vaccination, physical assessment and health education. These services are conducted during entrance into primary school in September and January – May, in preparation for transition to or exit from secondary school. The physical assessment screening activities include dental health, anemia, visual and hearing defects, and breast examinations.

93. It remains a challenge to implement a comprehensive and distinct program to address Adolescent Health Care. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Youth to address this issue.

94. There has been some training and discussion for the introduction of the Behavioral Disorders Module of the MH Gap at the secondary schools. The Ministry of Education has been identified as the focal point.

Sexual and reproductive health (130.115)

95. Family Health Services are offered at Eleven (11) health Districts in Saint Kitts and the (6) in Nevis. One of the Services offered at these facilities include Sexual and Reproductive Health, which comprises antenatal, post-natal, family planning, pap smear, child health and school health.

96. The Department of Probation and Child Protection Services currently has PSAs pertaining to consent and child sexual abuse. They advise those who are eligible to give consent that it is safe to say “No”. It also provides avenues to seek help in the event that an individual feels pressured into providing consent.

97. The PSAs also appeal to the public to aid in the prevention of child sexual abuse which sometimes lead to teenage pregnancy. It calls for raising awareness through education, and protection of victims through prosecution.

Right to education (130.124, 130.127)

98. The Education Act and the Ministry of Education Strategic Plan support the access to education for all children. There are no legal or policy barriers to adolescent mothers attending school. Support for adolescent girls is also provided through the Department of Social Development (i.e. Project Viola).

99. The Ministry of Education of Saint Kitts and Nevis has open/rolling enrollment within the public education system. The Ministry has reduced enrolment barriers for non-nationals in schools. Children are granted provisional enrolment during the immigration application process, allowing them to access education in advance of the completion of the immigration process. Refugees are also granted provisional enrolment, even in the cases where records are absent owing to loss or destruction (e.g. migration after natural hazards etc.).

100. Additionally, the Ministry of Education recently supported training for 2 cohorts of teachers in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). This initiative is meant to better support instruction for English Language learners enrolled in the public education system.

101. Access to special education services have increased, with the expansion of the Cotton Thomas Comprehensive School through the opening of a second campus in Estridge.

102. The Ministry of Education is working to enhance special education through the development of a framework for the development of Individual Education Plans (IEP).

103. In 2022, education as a social development mechanism was further enforced with the introduction of free tuition for all students enrolling and currently enrolled at the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College (CFBC). This measure reduced financial barriers to tertiary education and broadened access to higher learning.

104. On September 22, 2025, Saint Kitts and Nevis inaugurated the Christopher-Wilkin Institute of Technology (CWIT), merging three Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions: the Advanced Vocational Education Centre (AVEC), Project Strong, and the National Skills Training Programme (NSTP). CWIT is expected to transform vocation education by empowering citizens by providing inclusive, high-quality, and future-ready education, ensuring the sustainability of skills development in the federation.

Health and family life education (130.28, 130.29)

105. With the assistance of the PanAmerican Health Organization (PAHO), a Gender Sensitization curriculum was revised for children under the age of 12, and a three-day Gender Sensitization Training of Trainers was delivered in February 2022 to stakeholders, including government ministries and NGOs, including school counselors received this training.

106. The gender-sensitive training curriculum is intended to teach children about appropriate behaviours when it comes to issues of sexual conduct, the importance of consent and how to recognize and report experiences of molestation, harm or abuse.

107. Efforts are ongoing to integrate the Health and Family Life Education (Sexuality and Reproductive Health Module) as part of the school health program.

108. A Comprehensive Life skills programme has been developed and was piloted in September 2025. Critical components of the programme include enhanced sexual health education, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, peace and conflict education, and service education through the piloting of a volunteer service program and expansion of student job attachment programming.

109. Internal work plan has been developed as it relates to extending the implementation of the Education Sector Plan beyond 2021. The National Safe School policy was approved in 2022 with training and capacity building on disaster preparedness currently ongoing. As such, the development of school safety plans and execution of emergency plans and school drills was a focus for the 2024–2025 academic year.

110. Saint Kitts and Nevis launched its Education for Sustainable Development (ESD for 2030 country initiative in 2022, a framework designed to align with UNESCO's roadmap for ESD. The ESD country initiative has youth engagement as a major priority. Health, safety, and security are components of the ESD development plans.

Human rights education (130.130)

111. The life skill programme piloted in September will address Human Rights as part of the Peace and Conflict education component of the programme.

112. Additionally, the ESD Country Initiative will be integrated into the curriculum. Human Rights Education is a core ESD curriculum component.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

Domestic violence (130.111, 130.140, 130.141, 130.142, 130.143, 130.144, 130.145, 130.146, 130.147, 130.148, 130.149)

113. The Domestic Violence Act, CAP 12.04, provides a legal framework for protection and relief for victims of domestic violence, notably women and children. It allows the court to grant protection, occupation, and tenancy orders to prevent further abuse and provide legal recourse and safety.

114. The Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2022 enhances this framework by enabling applications for protection orders in the Magistrate's Court. This amendment increases accessibility for victims and their families, as the cost and complexity of High Court proceedings were previously prohibitive for many.

115. The Act broadens the definition of economic abuse to include controlling a victim's financial resources and evading financial obligations. It also designates the Director of Gender Affairs as the key officer responsible for supporting domestic violence victims, thereby reinforcing institutional accountability.

116. Saint Kitts and Nevis reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the legislative and institutional framework to effectively combat sexual abuse against children and gender-based violence. A one-day workshop was held on 21 July 2022 which addressed gender-based violence in the Federation.

117. Services for women and children who experience domestic or gender-based violence will benefit from a newly updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Garden of Rebirth, signed on 8 March 2023. The Garden of Rebirth is an empowerment centre housing women and children who are victimized.

118. Beyond legislation, institutional mechanisms play a critical role in prevention, enforcement, and victim support. The Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force operates a Special Victims Unit (SVU) trained to respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

119. To improve in this area, the Department of Gender Affairs has taken the initiative to build stronger relationships with the SVU and support the unit's efforts to increase capacity by recruiting and training more officers in gender-sensitive response and investigation practices.

120. The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs contributes through the provision of legal aid services, ensuring access to justice for survivors. They also support public awareness and education through its social media platforms and the website of the Law Commission Department, which provides access to up-to-date legislation relevant to gender-based violence.

121. Further, the Ministry collaborates with the Department of Gender Affairs by conducting legal training sessions for its staff, helping to ensure that frontline officers are informed of the applicable legal frameworks and their responsibilities.

122. In recognition of the need for a coordinated response, the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs continues to provide legal and technical support for legislative development and partners with stakeholders to conduct training sessions for police officers, judicial officers, and frontline workers.

123. Public education and psychosocial services are essential to ensuring a holistic response to gender-based violence, as they help shift societal attitudes and inform the public about available protections and support.

124. On August 12, 2024, as part of the Violence as a Public Health Initiative, a new training programme was conducted. It aimed at enhancing the intervention, diversion, and support strategies for managing violence and related social challenges.

125. These reforms reflect the Government's commitment to addressing domestic violence through immediate and effective legal measures.

Advancement of women – National Gender Policy (130.136, 130.137, 130.138)

126. In 2021, women across the Federation were honoured on International Women's Day for their leadership and service. The Department of Gender Affairs recognized their contributions as part of ongoing efforts to highlight women's role in nation-building.

127. That same year, the Government advanced the National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan. This policy, in its final stages of review, is expected to institutionalize gender mainstreaming and provide a long-term framework for equality in government institutions and programmes.

128. Support for women's economic resilience was strengthened through a strong partner's 2021 regional initiative, Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post-Pandemic of COVID-19, which aligned with UN priorities on gender empowerment.

129. In 2022, two Saint Kitts-based NGOs became the first in Latin America and the Caribbean to secure funding through a longstanding partner. The achievement created new opportunities for women entrepreneurs and bolstered community-led initiatives.

130. Later in 2022, eight women were inducted into the Pioneering Women's Gallery. This recognition highlighted their achievements in leadership and provided role models for future generations.

131. Females in Saint Kitts and Nevis are excelling in science and mathematics at the secondary level; with their involvement in engineering and robotics at the tertiary level showing exponential growth. Women have also surpassed 50 percent participation in robotics.

132. In 2024, services for young women in Project Viola, a project for teen mothers, were expanded with the introduction of a shadow mentorship programme designed to provide insights into career paths. Participants were matched with professionals and supported to explore career interests, enhance their career readiness, and receive inspiration to pursue their goals.

133. The Minister with responsibility for Social Development and Gender Affairs successfully advocated for changes to the Women's Prison Work Programme. Female inmates are now permitted to undertake training sessions outside of the prison compound, similar to the current programme that exists with male inmates.

134. Recently, Saint Kitts and Nevis commemorated International Women's Day 2025 with a national event led by Government officials and the Women in Sports Commission of the Saint Kitts Nevis Olympic Committee (SKNOC).

135. The celebration promoted inclusivity in sports and reaffirmed the commitment to empowering women across all sectors of society. It also showcased the visible support of government ministers, signaling that gender equality remains a priority on the national agenda.

Children

Convention on the Rights of the Child (130.1, 130.2, 130.3, 130.4, 130.5, 130.6)

136. The CRC Report was officially presented to the CRC Committee in January 2025. Work is progressing on the Country Level Action Plan for the CRC Concluding Observations. The Director of Probation and Child Protection Services has been provided with a framework for the rollout. A meeting with all stakeholders for consideration of the CRC recommendations will take place before year end. The matter of streamlining ages across various legislations has begun. The Ministry of Social Services supported the Attorney General's Chambers with a Cabinet submission on the increase to the age of sexual consent and the change to the Marriage Act to remove the stipulation of parental consent at a younger age. The Ministry of Social Services will collaborate with the Saint Kitts National Youth Parliament Association (SKNYPA) to host a series of public engagements to discuss these changes with the public.

137. Review of the Child Justice Act and the Child Care and Adoption Act are currently being reviewed by the Probation and Child Protection Services and other stakeholders. Their recommendations will be compiled for submission to the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs for action.

General principles and protection (130.154, 130.155, 130.157)

138. The Government continues to make strides in compliance with the recommendations received from its UPR report in 2021. As an example, to better assist the vulnerable youths of the federation, approximately 20 Secondary School Guidance Counsellors and Probation and Child Protection Officers participated in a day-long training session on 8 March 2021.

139. Each participant received a manual designed to help train substance abuse treatment counsellors to conduct a brief five-session intervention for adolescents with cannabis use disorders. It combines two sessions of Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET) provided individually and three sessions of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) provided in a group format.

140. The programme is referred to as MET/GBT5. The MET sessions focused on factors that motivate clients to change whereas in the CBT sessions, clients learned skills to cope with problems and meet their needs in ways that do not involve turning to marijuana.

141. A presentation on the National Child Protection Protocol was delivered to senior management teams from the Ministries of National Security and Education in November 2023.

142. On 26 February 2025 the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, through the Citizen Security Task Force, continued its positive engagement with the nation's youth by hosting an inaugural Day of Interruption – a national student intervention initiative designed to combat crime and violence while fostering safer communities across Saint Kitts and Nevis.

143. This groundbreaking initiative brought together prominent figures and local influencers who shared words of encouragement and personal life experiences to inspire

students and help them make positive life choices. The day of interruption was an initiative paired with the Beyond the 90 Days campaign.

144. Saint Kitts and Nevis participated in the Youth Protection Seminar hosted under the European Union's EL PAcCTO 2.0 Programme in Bogotá, Colombia, from 25–27 March, 2025. The seminar was an opportunity for high-level officials in relevant ministries to discuss policies and strategies to strengthen the protection systems for children and young people in the Caribbean and Latin America.

145. The participation of Saint Kitts and Nevis underscored the country's commitment to advancing justice sector reform and social development policies that are responsive to the needs of youths and aligned with international human rights obligations, including Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16.

Empowerment

146. The Government of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in collaboration with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), launched the Financial Education and Savings Programme, in May, 2024. This initiative seeks to enhance financial literacy and savings practices among youths ages 5-18, equipping them with tools for long-term financial stability.

147. Achieving Success through Personal Investment, Resources, and Education (ASPIRE) is a financial education, savings, and investment programme that was established by the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in September 2024, geared towards the nation's youth.

148. Citizens of the federation (by birth or descent) between the ages of 5 and 18 are eligible to receive a \$1000 contribution from the Government that will be directly deposited into an ASPIRE savings account on behalf of the child. Later, \$500 of the initial deposit will be transferred into an investment in National Bank and The Cable shares, empowering youths with a stake in the nation's economic growth.

149. Following this initiative, a comprehensive curriculum will be introduced and delivered to schools and other institutions. It will cover essential topics including budgeting, saving, investing, and entrepreneurship.

Persons with disabilities

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (130.19)

150. Saint Kitts and Nevis is undertaking a review of the 2017 Disabilities Policy with a view to finalizing a revised national disabilities policy and drafting a comprehensive Disabilities Bill. Currently, a consultant is crafting a policy and bill to protect against discrimination on the grounds of disability. The policy and bill will seek to mirror the provisions outlined in the CRPD, regarding accessibility, health, work, and employment inter alia. It is expected these documents will be submitted to the Cabinet before the end of 2025.

151. This process, which includes stakeholder consultation and inter-agency collaboration, demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening the protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Once finalized and enacted, these instruments are expected to provide a more structured and rights-based framework for advancing inclusion, accessibility and equality in all spheres of public life.

General principles (130.158, 130.159, 130.60, 130.162)

152. Saint Kitts and Nevis acknowledges the importance of enacting legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination against persons living with disabilities. While the Constitution of Saint Christopher (Saint Kitts) and Nevis guarantees equality before the law and non-discrimination, there is currently no standalone anti-discrimination law specifically addressing disability across all sectors.

153. In line with its obligations under CRPD, the Government is actively addressing this gap. A discussion was held between the Government and members of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Association of Persons with Disabilities (SKNAPD) in November 2022 which featured

presentations from the President and Vice President of the SKNAPD as well as the President of the Saint Kitts Society for the Blind.

154. The issues raised included but were not limited to finding a permanent home for the Association; updating legislation to include mandates in the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities; protecting designated parking spaces for the differently abled and adjusting other traffic regulations; housing; reducing the stigma towards disability and increasing employment opportunities.

155. On 4 April, 2025, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in partnership with TDC Automotive Division and through a donation from a bilateral partner, acquired a new mobility coaster to enhance accessibility. The coaster features several safety and accessibility functions, including an automatic passenger door, a pop-out electric step, four wheelchairs, a wheelchair lift, 10 seats, a public address system, and internal handrails.

156. The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs ensures access to justice through legal aid services and by improving court accessibility, including the use of interpreters and attention to physical accommodation. The Ministry also advances legal literacy through its social media platforms and ensures that all laws are publicly accessible via the Law Commission Department's website.

157. The Saint Kitts Spectrum Services Centre continues to work to raise awareness about autism, providing information and resources for families and advocating for the needs of children with autism. Services provided at the Centre are free of cost.

158. Special Olympics Saint Kitts and Nevis is a non-profit organization that aims to address the challenges faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports, health, education, and community programs.

159. On September 11, 2025, the UN RCO and OHCHR collaborated with the St. Kitts & Nevis Chamber of Industry & Commerce (SKNCIC) and the Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship to convene a workshop for the private sector on Disability Inclusion in the Business Community.

160. The workshop, which brought representatives from large companies as well as micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) together, sought to provide targeted, practical, and engaging sensitization training on the human rights model of disability and its impact on the business community. More specifically, the sessions endeavored to unpack the obligations and opportunities of the CRPD regarding employment and the private sector, and introduced the concept of reasonable accommodation as a flexible and scalable tool for inclusion.

The elderly

161. On March 20, 2023, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing and Disabilities launched The Senior's Day Programme in three major communities. The programme is held once per week in the respective communities where participants are engaged in various stimulating activities such as proper foot care for diabetics, healthy eating, financial management and disaster preparedness.

162. In July 2024, the Ministry further expanded the programme with the launch of three new Seniors' Day Centres in three other communities.

Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (130.163, 130.164, 130.165)

163. The Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act was passed in June 2024 and aims to strengthen the protection of migrants, particularly vulnerable groups, by criminalizing the smuggling of people and increasing penalties for offenders.

164. Part 3 of the Act introduces offences connected with smuggling of migrants and imposes severe penalties, including imprisonment and substantial fines, especially where smuggling endangers life, involves inhumane treatment, or is linked to organized crime.

165. Part 4 provides protective measures for smuggled persons, with a strong emphasis on women and children. Under section 27(4) smuggled migrant children are guaranteed the right

of access to education regardless of immigration status, while subsection (5) prohibits their detention and required placement under appropriate child protection services.

166. Section 27(6)(a) mandates the appointment of a legal guardian for unaccompanied minors, and the remaining provisions of section 27 emphasize that the best interest of the child must guide all related decisions, including presumptive treatment as a child in uncertain age cases and the use of trained professionals for interviews in child-appropriate settings.

167. Collectively, these provisions establish a rights-based, child-sensitive framework and reinforce the Country's zero tolerance stance on migrant smuggling and related exploitations.

168. From June 30th to July 4th 2025, the Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with the CARICOM IMPACS and the Regional Security System (RSS) facilitated a training-Human Trafficking and Smuggling Prevention Course. A total of fifty (50) participants represented the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF), the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force, Customs & Excise and Immigration Departments, Probation and Child Welfare Services, the St. Kitts and Nevis Prison Service, and the Anti-Human Trafficking and Border Control Task Force. The course strengthened capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to incidents of human trafficking and smuggling and to collaborate effectively across agencies and sectors.

VI. Challenges and constraints

169. The Government continues to face challenges in meeting Treaty Body Deadlines. Currently Saint Kitts and Nevis has three outstanding reports; CERD (2007); CRPD (2021); and CAT (2021). This backlog reflects limited technical and human resource capacity to consistently track and compile data across ministries. The Government acknowledges these reporting gaps and underscores the need for dedicated institutional capacity to strengthen compliance.

170. Prison overcrowding and infrastructure limitations continue to pose challenges to the humane management of persons deprived of liberty. While efforts are ongoing to strengthen rehabilitation and restorative justice pathways, the absence of a new correctional facility and insufficient alternatives to detention remain structural obstacles.

171. Human rights institutional gaps also persist. Saint Kitts and Nevis does not yet have a Paris Principles-compliant National Human Rights Institution. While the Probation and Child Welfare Board has been identified as a possible vehicle, additional legal, institutional, and technical support is required.

172. Finally, data gaps, particularly disaggregated statistics by gender, age, disability, and migrant/refugee status limit the ability to measure the impact of reforms on vulnerable groups. Technical assistance is needed to strengthen data collection systems across sectors.

VII. Conclusion

173. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis reaffirms that meaningful progress has been made since the 3rd Cycle Review, including strengthening social protection systems, advancing gender equality, expanding access to education and health services, modernizing justice administration, and embedding human rights principles in legislation and policy.

174. At the same time, the Government recognizes that challenges remain – including prison overcrowding, outstanding treaty body reports, and the need for greater institutional capacity within the NMIRF to track and implement recommendations. Addressing these gaps requires sustained national effort as well as strengthened international cooperation.

175. Looking ahead, Saint Kitts and Nevis is committed to consolidating gains and advancing new reforms. Our priorities include expanding restorative justice and diversion pathways; digitizing justice processes to improve efficiency and reduce backlogs and ensuring resilience through climate action and inclusive development policies.

176. We therefore call on the international community to continue its solidarity, by providing targeted technical cooperation and financial support in areas such as treaty body reporting, prison and detention reform, data systems for human rights monitoring, and the establishment of a national human rights institution. Such support will ensure that Saint Kitts and Nevis can fully meet its human rights obligations and contribute to the collective advancement of the 2030 Agenda.
