



7 June 2011
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**UN Human Rights Council
Seventeenth session, 30 May – 17 June 2011**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

SAINT LUCIA

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Saint Lucia's declaration that in the very near future, it intends to sign and ratify a number of international human rights conventions¹ and the many recommendations by States in this regard.² We note Saint Lucia's commitment, as expressed in the Addendum, to consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.³

While we welcome that there have been no executions in the last 15 years, we are disappointed that Saint Lucia declared itself, "at present", not in a position to move towards a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty or its abolition.⁴ We recall that there is no convincing evidence that the death penalty has a deterrent effect on crime and that there are more effective measures that the government can take to protect the population in Saint Lucia from crime and violence, such as strengthening the capacities and resources of the police and the judiciary. We urge Saint Lucia to reconsider the recommendations made by many States regarding the death penalty, including to declare a formal moratorium on capital punishment with a view to abolishing it; to commute all death sentences to prison sentences; and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.⁵

¹ A/HRC/17/6, paragraph 12

² *Ibid*, paragraphs 89.1-89.27 (Brazil, Slovenia, Algeria, United Kingdom, Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Poland, France, Slovakia, Morocco, Maldives, Australia, Canada)

³ A/HRC/17/6/Add.1.

⁴ A/HRC/17/6, paragraph 38.

⁵ *Ibid*, paragraphs 89.64-89.71 (Spain, Slovakia, Italy, Portugal, Australia, Sweden, France)

Mr. President,

While we welcome Saint Lucia's commitment to condemn acts of violence against persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,⁶ we regret its rejection of a range of recommendations to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation.⁷ We believe that it is the duty of the state to confront the stigma surrounding homosexuality and that the removal of discriminatory laws is an important first step in this.

Finally Mr. President,

We welcome Saint Lucia's support for a number of recommendations to combat violence against women and girls⁸ and to change its laws to ensure that all persons under the age of 18 are provided with the same protection and guarantees.⁹

Thank you, Mr President.

⁶ *Ibid*, paragraph 89.97 (USA) and Addendum page 7

⁷ *Ibid*, paragraphs 89.35 (Canada) and 89.92-89.96 (Spain, France, Canada, Slovenia) and Addendum page

⁸ *Ibid*, paragraphs 89.74-89.79 (Brazil, Hungary, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Italy)

⁹ *Ibid*, paragraph 89.91 (Turkey)