



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Saint Kitts and Nevis and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group in January 2021.

As the final outcome report on the review of Saint Kitts and Nevis has been recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 47<sup>th</sup> session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Saint Kitts and Nevis – the Compilation of United Nations information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions – which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years, until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have considered the statements and/or recommendations made by 60 delegations and the presentation made and responses provided by the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis. I have also considered the actions taken by the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to implement the 58 recommendations fully supported during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues, which appear in the annex to this letter.

I welcome the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up, after the second UPR cycle, as well as the willingness to have government officials participating in regional dialogues on building more inclusive Caribbean societies and the efforts to reform the justice system, by passing legislation to reduce delays in the court system, and to address legislative, policy, and data gaps regarding persons with disabilities.

I encourage Saint Kitts and Nevis to develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results in the areas highlighted in the annex to this letter and to facilitate preparations for the fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to all Member States is to develop and implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular all civil society organizations and, where necessary, with the support of international organizations, including my Office and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

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H.E. Mr. Mark A.G. BRANTLEY  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Aviation  
Saint Kitts and Nevis



I also encourage Saint Kitts and Nevis to strengthen the recently created national mechanism for comprehensive reporting and follow-up in relation to recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and to treaty obligations, while linking these to the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, I strongly recommend the use of the OHCHR practical guide on this topic, which is available at:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR\\_PUB\\_16\\_1\\_NMRF\\_PracticalGuide.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf)

Please note that I am sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting them with the implementation of the recommendations, following the review. One important measure that can positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I encourage Saint Kitts and Nevis to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the third cycle of the review, by 2023.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): *“The Human Rights Council’s universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State scheduled for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

I look forward to discussing with you ways in which my Office may assist Saint Kitts and Nevis in relation to the areas identified in this letter and its annex.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

cc: H.E. Ms. Kaye BASS  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation  
Saint Kitts and Nevis

Mr. Didier TREBUCQ  
United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean  
Barbados



## Annex

### **Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies**

- Ratifying the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Adapting the national legal system to implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

### **National human rights framework**

- Transitioning the Office of the Ombudsman into a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, which includes allocating sufficient resources to the institution.

### **Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

##### *Equality and non-discrimination*

- Adopting all necessary measures to put an end to all forms of discrimination, including by enacting comprehensive legislation that stipulates a list of prohibited grounds for discrimination and adequate avenues to address violations to the right to non-discrimination.

##### *Development, the environment, and business and human rights*

- Taking concrete and sustainable measures to combat the negative effects of climate change, as a follow-up to the accepted recommendation from the previous Universal Periodic Review, by strengthening institutional capacity and long-term environmental planning to enhance national preparedness and response to the adverse impacts of climate change, with a focus on the protection of women and vulnerable groups.
- Addressing, within the context of its Climate Change Adaption Strategy, threats posed to ecosystems and food sources by ocean acidification and salt intrusion caused by carbon emissions and sea level rise.

#### **Civil and political rights**

##### *Right to life, liberty and security of person*

- Establishing a national strategy to combat gang-related violence and homicide in the country.
- Taking concrete measures to reduce overcrowding in the prison system.

##### *Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

- Strengthening mechanisms that ensure the accountability of public officials for human rights violations.

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*

- Developing a national strategy or action plan to support implementation of target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals for the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030.

**B. Economic, social and cultural rights**

*Right to social security*

- Enacting the social protection bill of 2018 to formally secure social protection and alleviate poverty in the country.

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

- Strengthening national policies to reduce poverty affecting vulnerable groups, especially women, persons with disabilities and children.
- Maintaining the implementation of the Poverty Alleviation Programme at the national level with an emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors, in particular for households headed by women and considering the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Strengthening successful policies to increase access to education, health and housing.

*Right to health*

- Reducing the rate of teenage 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.

*Right to education*

- Implementing the Education Sector Plan beyond 2021, paying special attention to equality in access to education, inclusive education of children with disability, ensuring access to the educational system for adolescent mothers, and to the preparation for and response to disaster situations.

**D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

*Women*

- Increasing the participation and representation of women in political decision-making positions, for example in the parliament, by taking temporary measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women.
- Completing the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan.
- Implementing legislative frameworks to address domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, and taking further steps through education and social protection measures, such as training of law enforcement personnel and judicial officers, sensitizing the media and educating the public.
- Launching human rights education and training initiative, with a focus on addressing violence against women for law enforcement and judicial officers.

- Strengthening efforts to raise awareness in the society about the need to change stereotyped and discriminatory attitudes concerning the role of women and girls, in particular through educational programmes targeted at men and boys on the prevention of violence and the reform of traditional negative attitudes towards women.

#### *Children*

- Establishing a strategy to keep children in school and prevent them from joining gangs, by strengthening risk youth programmes and employment opportunities for the youth population.
- Strengthening laws to combat sexual abuse of children.

#### *Persons with disabilities*

- Implementing programmes that guarantee, in practice, accessibility for people with disabilities to public buildings, transport and educational facilities.
- Taking legislative measures to prevent discrimination against persons living with disabilities, implementing a national plan to promote their integration in society, and prioritizing them in social protection policies.