

#2

**EUROPEAN UNION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS****UPR - Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Mr. President,

Saint Kitts and Nevis is an electoral democracy. The federal government consists of the prime minister, the cabinet, and the unicameral National Assembly. Saint Kitts and Nevis has generally implemented its anticorruption laws effectively. A Financial Intelligence Unit investigates financial crimes, such as money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression are generally respected. The government owns the sole local television station, to which the opposition faces some restrictions on access. In addition to both government and private radio stations, there is one privately owned daily newspaper, and political parties publish weekly newspapers. Internet access is not restricted. Freedom of religion is constitutionally protected, and academic freedom is generally honoured. The right to form civic organizations is generally respected, as is freedom of assembly. Workers may legally form unions, though a union can engage in collective bargaining only if more than 50 per cent of the company's employees are union members. The right to strike, while not specified by law, is recognized and generally respected in practice. The judiciary is largely independent, and legal provisions for a fair and speedy trial are generally observed.

In 2015, macroeconomic conditions improved significantly over 2013 and 2014 and that the economy recorded two years of strong growth, averaging about six per cent annually, the strongest in the region by far. This reflects primarily a construction boom fuelled by inflows under the Citizenship by Investment programme (CIP); government and Sugar Industry Diversification Foundation (SIDF) investment and spending, including on the People's Employment Programme (PEP); and a continued recovery in tourist arrivals.

Employment expanded by 23 per cent over the two years, while inflation has remained low. Banks have remained stable following debt restructuring. A strong fiscal performance was supported by a robust outturn in tax revenues, more than compensating for higher-than-planned expenditures, including the 13th -month wage bonus. The constitution and other laws and policies protect religious freedom and, in practice, the government generally enforced these protections. The government generally respected religious freedom in law and in practice. There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice, and prominent societal leaders took positive steps to promote religious freedom.

The country has undertaken major measures towards the betterment of the environment. St. Kitts and Nevis sustainability as a nation, is dependent upon the collective and global response to aggressively reduce St. Kitts and Nevis Greenhouse gas emissions(GHG). In this regard the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis proposes an emissions reduction target of 22% and 35% of St. Kitts and Nevis GHG emissions projected in the business as usual (BAU) scenario for 2025 and 2030 respectively. The National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act (NCEPA) articulates strategic approaches to environmental protection, and serves as a framework for the declaration of sensitive ecological and historic sites that presents clearly vulnerability to climate change and vulnerability.

The country has taken commendable efforts in combatting HIV/AIDS through expanding health programming in this area. The work done by the Department of Gender Affairs has also been a success story.