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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Commemoration of International Women's Day



Washington D.C. - March 12, 2020 - The following statement was delivered by Shirnaya Stephen, Alternate Representative, during the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council commemorating International Women's Day:

Thank you Chair

On the outset, my delegation endorses the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Barbados on behalf of CARICOM.

My delegation is pleased to join the many countries that have sponsored the resolution - WOMEN'S

REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE OAS”. We extend our appreciation to the delegation of Panama for its leadership in this effort.

The Government of Saint Lucia honors and recognizes the women of Saint Lucia, the hemisphere and the world on this international women’s day, celebrated on March 8. We continue to advocate for and promote women’s right to participate equally in all aspects of our society. This is evident in women’s representation in leadership and decision-making roles across various sectors in Saint Lucia. We have the largest number of women in the Cabinet of Ministers in the history of Saint Lucia, representing one quarter. The significant contributions being made by women in the advancement of our developmental agenda cannot go unrecognized.

The Department of Gender Relations of Saint Lucia continues to be concerned about the increasing instances of violence against women, and the attitude of some, towards such behaviour, and has committed to continue to work to advance a society that promotes full respect for the rights of all women.

Thank you Chair

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