



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon,
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva
at the 37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
*Presentation of National Report by the Government of the
Federated States of Micronesia*
Monday 18th January, 2021**

Thank you, Madam/Mr. [Vice] President.

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia and thanks the country for its national report and updates provided today.

We commend the commitment of Micronesia to promoting and protecting human rights, including by being among the first Pacific Island States to adopt a climate change act and through implementation of the nationwide integrated disaster risk management and climate change policy of June 2013, which complements the Strategic Development Plan (2004-2023). Other commendable achievements include the completion of the Gender Policy and End Violence Against Women Policy in 2018 as well as the Gender action plan in November 2020.

In a constructive spirit, The Bahamas **recommends** that Micronesia:

- (i) Accelerate ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT);
- (ii) Strengthen efforts to further reduce infant and maternal mortality rates by improving both access to and data collection on maternal and child health care, including on remote islands, for example through scaling up mobile clinics and community nursing and
- (iii) Fully implement the National Strategic Plan of Action on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (2019-2024)

Being also an archipelagic, Small Island Developing State (SIDS) like Micronesia, The Bahamas understands the challenges faced, including limited human and financial resources, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters and the need to duplicate services throughout the islands. We therefore encourage Micronesia to avail itself of technical assistance and capacity-building support, in accordance with its human rights priorities, and call on the international community to cooperate with the country in this regard.

We wish Micronesia every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.

(Speaking time allocated: 2 minutes 15 seconds)