



**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 Saint Kitts and Nevis
Tuesday 19th January, 2021**

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

The Bahamas welcomes the sister CARICOM delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis and commends the country for the presentation of its national report and constructive engagement in this UPR Process.

We congratulate St. Kitts and Nevis on the peaceful conduct of general elections last year and positively note strides made in the field of human rights, despite challenges faced, including vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bahamas welcomes advances made by St. Kitts and Nevis, including the establishment of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, the ratification of the Convention Against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the implementation of both the Gender Sensitization Project and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The implementation of fiscal and other policies designed to promote sustained economic growth, social protection and improved standards of living are also commendable.

In a constructive spirit, The Bahamas **recommends** that St. Kitts and Nevis:

- (i) Conduct and complete legislative reviews toward ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC), ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and seek any technical assistance required toward this end
- (ii) Prioritise the passage of the Social Protection Bill, the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy and Action Plan and the development of the Gender Policy and

Speaking time allocated: 1 min. 50 sec.

- (iii) Take steps to reduce the rate of teen 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.

We reaffirm our sisterly solidarity with St. Kitts and Nevis and wish the country every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.