



**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 Lucia
Wednesday 20th January, 2021**

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

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the sister CARICOM delegation of St. Lucia and commends the country for the presentation of its national report and constructive engagement in this UPR Process.

The Bahamas is pleased to note that, despite the challenges faced by St. Lucia, as a fellow Small Island Developing State vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters and also facing the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant strides have nevertheless been made in the field of human rights. Notably, we welcome the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of a National Mechanism for Implementation Reporting and Follow-up, the mainstreaming of gender in St. Lucia's National Development Plan, progress toward passage of the Status of Children Bill and the development of the Economic Recovery Plan.

In a constructive spirit, The Bahamas **recommends** that St. Lucia:

- (i) Conduct and complete legislative reviews and public awareness efforts toward ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention Against Torture and seek any technical assistance required toward this end
- (ii) Prioritise the completion of the Draft School Feeding Policy (2020-2030) and
- (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

Speaking time allocated: 1 min. 50 sec.

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

I thank you.

Speaking time allocated: 1 min. 50 sec.