



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva
at the 39th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of National Report by the Government of Suriname
Monday 1 November, 2021**

The Bahamas warmly greets the sister CARICOM delegation of Suriname and commends the country for the presentation of its national report and constructive engagement in this UPR Process.

We congratulate Suriname on the peaceful conduct of general elections last year and positively note strides made in the field of human rights, despite challenges faced, such as vulnerability to climate change, exogenous shocks as well as economic and other impacts, including due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bahamas welcomes progress made by Suriname since its last review, including on recommendations made by The Bahamas. In this regard, we were pleased to note the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in addition to steps taken toward ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. We encourage Suriname to expedite the ratification of this Optional Protocol.

Other noteworthy areas of progress by Suriname include efforts to prevent and respond to trafficking in persons, such as the conduct of a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign, development of a National Plan of Action and renewal of the mandate of the Trafficking in Persons Working Group. The establishment of the Constitutional Court; development of a National Action Plan for children as well as the extension of the mandate of the National Council on Domestic Violence are also welcome developments. Further, we positively note efforts to promote the participation of women in the labour market, the introduction of parental leave and proposed legislation to promote an enhanced work-life balance.

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

Speaking time allocated: 2 min. 10 sec.

- (i) Ratifies the Convention Against Torture (CAT)
- (ii) Establishes a National Mechanism for Implementation Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) of recommendations emanating from human rights bodies and mechanisms
- (iii) Expands the water, sanitation and hygiene programme to ensure access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities, especially for people living in the interior and
- (iv) Strengthens efforts to ensure adequate provision of prenatal and postnatal care to address the rates of infant, child and maternal mortality

We wish Suriname every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.