



**Statement by Her Excellency Ms. Keva L. Bain
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The
Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in
Geneva
at the 40th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of National Report by the Government of Haiti
Monday, 31 January, 2022**

The Bahamas welcomes the delegation of Haiti and thanks it for presenting the national report.

We commend initiatives to improve agricultural output and food security and especially welcome efforts in the area of Trafficking in Persons. We recognize however that Haiti's efforts in the field of human rights are in a context of successive challenges, including a Presidential assassination and deadly natural disasters linked to climate change that have intensified the situation in the country, in addition to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

- (i) Pursues a path to free, fair and credible elections and ensures enabling conditions for their conduct;
- (ii) Takes effective measures to restore the rule of law with a view to ending violence and impunity;

and

- (iii) Addresses the practices of profiteering by orphanages and of "restavek", including by implementing legislation to prohibit them and by strengthening protections afforded to children in vulnerable situations.

We further encourage Haiti to implement our accepted recommendation from the previous UPR cycle by adopting and fully implementing the draft Nationality Law.

We urge Haiti to avail itself of support from regional and international partners and call on the global community to support the country in charting a sustainable path to recovery.

I thank you.

(Speaking time allocated: 1 minute 20 seconds)