



**Statement by H.E. Ms. Patricia Hermanns
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Bahamas
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
at the 43rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

Presentation of National Report by the Government of Barbados

Friday 5 May, 2023

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

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the High-level delegation of Barbados and commends the country for its constructive engagement in this UPR Process.

We congratulate Barbados on strides made as it continues charting a path to full self-determination, including through the envisaged enactment of a new Constitution. Notwithstanding a challenging environment, including due to vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards as well as the economic and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Barbados has made commendable progress in the field of human rights.

The Bahamas welcomes advancements such as the ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (2019); promotion of the right to education for all, by ensuring that teenage mothers can continue their education and the protection of economic rights, through both the updated Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan (2022) and COVID-related emergency initiatives to strengthen the social safety net.

The Bahamas further applauds progress made by Barbados in areas related to those recommendations made by The Bahamas during the previous UPR cycle, such as the finalization of statutory provisions aimed at the protection of the rights of the child and the completion of the National Policy on Gender.

Speaking time allocated: 1 min. 30 sec.

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

Consider the establishment or strengthening of a dedicated National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up in support of ongoing efforts to meet treaty reporting obligations

We reaffirm our sisterly solidarity with Barbados as a fellow CARICOM State and wish the country every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.

Speaking time allocated: 1 min. 30 sec.