



**Statement by H.E. Patricia A. Hermanns, Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other  
International Organizations in Geneva  
at the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
*Presentation of National Report by the Government of Cuba*  
Wednesday 15 November, 2023**

Thank you Mr./Madam [Vice] President.

The Bahamas thanks Cuba for presenting the national report and commends wide-ranging positive developments in the field of human rights since the last review, including a robust new Constitution, enhanced cooperation with the UN human rights machinery and a strengthened legal, institutional and policy framework for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. As a fellow Caribbean Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas also appreciates that these take place in spite of challenges faced, including the impact of climate change.

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

- (i) Fully implement the National Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Protect Victims

and

- (ii) Continue efforts to eliminate gender stereotypes in Cuban society, including through awareness-raising campaigns

We wish Cuba a successful review process.

I thank you.