



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva
at the 44th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of National Report by the Government of Tuvalu
Wednesday 8 November, 2023**

Thank you Mr. Vice President.

The Bahamas thanks the delegation of Tuvalu for presenting the national report and commends positive strides made by the country since the last review. As a fellow archipelagic Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas appreciates that these take place against a challenging landscape, including the need to duplicate services across the islands and the existential threat of climate change, disasters and climate-related shocks.

We therefore positively acknowledge progress made by Tuvalu, including efforts to ensure a fully inclusive Constitutional review and reform process and the development of both the National Strategic Plan (2020-2030) and complementary Human Rights Policy. Strengthened adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction as well as development of the Tuvalu Survival Fund, to finance recovery and rehabilitation from climate change impacts, are especially commendable. Also noteworthy are the efforts of Tuvalu to address food security, strengthen the health system and reinforce the legal and policy framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

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

- (i) Seek any technical assistance and capacity-building support deemed appropriate to support the necessary steps toward ratification of core international human rights treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention Against Torture;
- (ii) Continue efforts to strengthen healthcare in the outer islands, including provision of adequate human resources, maintenance of health facilities and development of targeted prevention and treatment strategies to address high rates of non-communicable diseases in those islands

and

- (iii) Adopt policies enabling adolescent mothers to continue their education after pregnancy

We wish Tuvalu every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.