



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Counsellor,
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva
at the 45th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

Presentation of National Report by the Government of Saudi Arabia

22 January 2024

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the Saudi Arabian delegation, thank the country for its comprehensive report, and commend positive strides made, including legislative and policy reforms that improve the realization of human rights in the country. We also positively acknowledge efforts by Saudi Arabia to support development through bilateral international cooperation.

The Bahamas respectfully recommends that Saudi Arabia:

- (i) accelerate efforts toward ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
- (ii) consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council;
- and
- (iii) strengthen national social insurance protections, including development of a social insurance scheme for maternity, with a view to creating a more enabling environment for increased female participation in the labour market.

We wish the delegation every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.