



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva
at the 46th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of National Report by the Government of Vanuatu
2 May, 2024**

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Thank you [Mr./Madame] [Vice] President.

The Bahamas warmly welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu and commends the country for its notable accomplishments in the field of human rights. We recognise that, as a fellow Small Island Developing State, these take place against a backdrop of myriad challenges, not least of which is the existential threat of climate change. In this connection, we applaud the leadership of Vanuatu on behalf of a coalition of States, to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on State obligations and legal consequences in relation to climate change.

The Bahamas further highlights among Vanuatu's achievements, the launching of the Survivor-Victims Charter to support those impacted by Gender-Based Violence; the inclusion of statistics of persons with disabilities in the 2022 national census and the implementation of compulsory birth registration.

With a view to supporting further progress, The Bahamas **recommends** that Vanuatu:

- (i) Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to protect children, including children with disabilities, from violence and abuse and assess the alignment of the child protection bill with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (ii) Continue efforts to provide Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and materials to schools, including those in remote communities, to enhance access to education and promote continuity of learning during emergencies; and
- (iii) Seek technical assistance from regional and international partners, in accordance with Vanuatu's needs and priorities, to enhance the country's capacity in the field of human rights.

We wish Vanuatu every success in this UPR process.