



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva
at the 49th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of National Report by the Government of Kiribati
28 April, 2025**

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

The Bahamas warmly greets the delegation of Kiribati and commends the Government on its fourth national report and continued engagement with the UPR process.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State (SIDS), The Bahamas recognizes the extraordinary challenges Kiribati faces as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and commends the country's dedicated commitment to human rights, despite resource constraints. We acknowledge the progress of Kiribati in strengthening its national human rights mechanisms, including the establishment of the Kiribati National Human Rights Taskforce.

We also commend the innovative approach to climate change and disaster governance, exhibited through the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan and the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Act, which integrate gender equality, disability inclusion, and community resilience.

Also noteworthy is the implementation of telehealth initiatives, which aim to increase access to medical services across the dispersed islands of Kiribati.

With a view to encouraging Kiribati to build on this progress, The Bahamas respectfully recommends that Kiribati:

- (i) Expand the national school feeding program to include primary school students, in an effort to improve childhood nutrition and support educational outcomes across all age groups;
- (ii) Increase investment in quality education, including through the provision of digital infrastructure and remote learning for rural and outer islands, to ensure equal education access for students, regardless of their location or socio-economic status and
- (iii) Seek expanded technical assistance support from international partners, to strengthen human rights treaty implementation and reporting and build capacity that will enable future ratifications of remaining core human rights instruments.

We wish Kiribati every success as the country pursues its human rights and development goals.

I thank you.

278 words

(2 minutes = 260 words)

Speaking time allotted: 2 minutes 5 seconds