

Hungary's Statement on The Bahamas, UPR 15th Session, 23 January 2013

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PM

Mr. President,

Hungary welcomes the distinguished delegation of The Bahamas and would like to commend the Government for withdrawing its reservation to Article 16 (1) of CEDAW which calls for equal property rights for both spouses, thus further contributing to gender equality in the country. Despite these and other achievements, reports indicate that violence against women is on the rise in The Bahamas. We therefore **recommend** the adoption of a strategic plan which includes elements of prevention, investigation and punishment of acts of violence as well as redress for victims, awareness rising and training for law enforcement staff.

The substantive delays both in the investigative and the judicial phase have certainly contributed to a climate of impunity in which violence against women goes unpunished. Challenges also remain regarding adequate legal representation. We would appreciate more information on how the planned "Swift Justice" initiative will help to reduce lengthy legal procedures, staff shortages, judicial inefficiency as well as financial and space constraints in the judiciary.

We highly appreciate that no capital punishments have been carried out since 2000. Would therefore The Bahamas be in a position to support the UNGA resolution on a moratorium on the use of death penalty ~~in the future?~~ after the planned review of its penal system?

Finally Mr. President,

We appreciate the efforts made by The Bahamas in the area of child protection including the establishment of National Committee of Families and Children. However, we regret that corporal punishment is still lawful in the country despite recommendations by the CRC and during the previous UPR. We therefore **recommend** that The Bahamas delete all references to corporal punishment from its legislation and prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings before the next UPR cycle.

Thank you Mr. President.