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H.E. Ambassador JOHN SA
Permanent Representative

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

**STATEMENT BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE BAHAMAS
23 JANUARY 2013
PALAIS DES NATIONS. GENEVA**

Thank you Mr. President.

My delegation welcomes the Delegation of the Bahamas and commends them for their informative report. We also take this opportunity to extend congratulations to our colleague CARICOM State on the occasion of their second Universal Periodic Review.

My delegation has noted that the Bahamas, despite being internationally classified as a "high human development" country, shares similar constraints as other CARICOM territories in terms of promoting and advancing human rights policies. It is within this context, that my country recognises efforts made by the Government of the Bahamas to promote and protect human rights as evidenced by the ratification of the ICCPR and the ICESCR subsequent to their last Universal Periodic Review.

Trinidad and Tobago is also pleased to specifically acknowledge the Government's commitment and the services it currently provides to enhance the quality of life of its differently-abled citizens and further recommends the following measures:

1. That the Government continue in its endeavours in addressing the needs of the differently-abled with the aim of acceding to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the near future.
2. That the Government continue its dialogue within the Constitutional Reform process with a view to adequately defining "discrimination" and guaranteeing the equal rights of all women within Bahamian society.

I thank you Mr. President.