



**Statement by Her Excellency Rhoda M. Jackson
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to
the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations at Geneva
at the 23rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of UPR Report by the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis**

11 November 2015

Thank you, Mr. [Vice] President.

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis, led by Ms. Kaye Bass, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of St. Kitts and Nevis, to this 23rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group.

We commend St. Kitts and Nevis for the presentation of its national report and welcome the continued, constructive engagement of the country in this Review Process.

The Bahamas congratulates St. Kitts and Nevis on the conduct of general elections earlier this year and, particularly, on the voting process which facilitated the peaceful exercise of the right to vote by the people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Bahamas notes that the efforts of St. Kitts and Nevis in strengthening its national human rights protection framework are taking place within a challenging fiscal environment marked by the reverberating effects of the global financial crisis, vulnerability to exogenous shocks and high indebtedness. These are realities with which our CARICOM Member States are all too familiar and which continue to prove a significant challenge to our development efforts.

We are, however, encouraged by the clear and coherent approach of St. Kitts and Nevis to overcome such challenges, particularly through the implementation of fiscal policies designed to promote sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and improved standards of living. In this regard, we recall the inherent complementarity which exists between the realization of economic development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Bahamas welcomes the advances made by St. Kitts and Nevis particularly with respect to the development of a national social safety net strategy; provision of a juvenile care facility for youth offenders; the launching of evidence-based educational initiatives aimed at promoting empowerment of males in the classroom and programmes to combat youth employment, among others.

The Bahamas **recommends** that St. Kitts and Nevis undertakes the necessary processes, by availing itself of any available technical assistance, to identify and overcome any obstacles which may exist to the country becoming a State Party to additional core human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

We reaffirm our solidarity with St. Kitts and Nevis as it strengthens its commitment to human rights and wish it every success throughout this UPR process.

I thank you, Mr. [Vice] President.