



**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 Organisations in Geneva
at the 24th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Presentation of UPR Report by the Government of Singapore**

27 January 2016

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Bahamas commends Singapore for the notable strides made in fostering a fair and inclusive society and for its deliberate, concrete efforts to strengthen social protection and preserve social harmony. We congratulate Singapore on a clear and focused National Report and for the broad consultative process undertaken in its preparation.

As a fellow Small State, The Bahamas appreciates the inherent constraints which may be faced however is pleased by Singapore's people-centred policies and programmes that constitute an investment in its most viable natural resource: – its people.

The Bahamas acknowledges the particular progress made through launching Universal Healthcare, increasing assistance to persons with disabilities and acceding to the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

The Bahamas recommends that Singapore:

- (i) Continues to work toward completion of the necessary internal processes so that it may accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- (ii) Continues to develop strategies to promote public awareness of the issue of Trafficking in Persons;
- (iii) Strengthens efforts to promote women's participation in public life, particularly at the higher corporate levels.

Thank you, Mr. President.