



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations  
Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva  
at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
Presentation of National Report by the Government of Suriname**

**2 May, 2016  
Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Bahamas extends a warm, sisterly welcome to the delegation of Suriname, led by Her Excellency the Minister of Justice and Police of Suriname, to this 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group.

We thank Suriname for its comprehensive presentation and for its active engagement and commitment to this Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.

The Bahamas commends Suriname on the efforts being undertaken to promote and protect human rights, including through public awareness initiatives on gender-based violence, empirical studies to identify the root causes of violent behavior among male perpetrators, the amendment of legislation to bring about gender equality in conferral of Surinamese nationality and on successes achieved in encouraging greater participation by women in decision making. Also noteworthy are the country's systematic and deliberate approaches to combatting trafficking in persons, ensuring child protection and supporting the active engagement of civil society in human rights protection efforts.

Recognizing that these efforts are taking place against a challenging fiscal landscape, with which our CARICOM Member States are all too familiar, The Bahamas is encouraged by the progress made by Suriname to better protect and guarantee human rights for all.

The Bahamas **recommends** that Suriname

- (i) continues and accelerates efforts toward ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and
- (ii) considers ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

The Bahamas would also be grateful to hear more about Suriname's ongoing strategies to achieve increased participation by women in politics and decision-making.

The Bahamas wishes every success to Suriname in this UPR process.

I thank you.