



**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 Trinidad and Tobago**

**10 May, 2016  
Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you, Mr. [Vice] President.

The Bahamas extends a sisterly welcome to the delegation of our fellow CARICOM State, Trinidad and Tobago. We thank the delegation for its clear, comprehensive national report and informative updates provided today.

The Bahamas congratulates Trinidad and Tobago on its deliberate and coherent approach to human rights protection and its commitment to this UPR process, as evinced by becoming, in 2015, the first Commonwealth Caribbean State to submit a UPR Mid-Term Progress Report. Further, the inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultations undertaken to draft the national report are commendable.

Clearly, significant strides continue to be made by Trinidad and Tobago in promoting and protecting human rights. Especially noteworthy are overall strengthening of the legal framework to protect children; the establishment of drug treatment and family courts and efforts to develop juvenile courts; creation of a number of national registers, with a view to adopting evidence-based approaches to policy-making, and initiatives to counter trafficking in persons and to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Also exemplary are achievements in education, which is universal from early childhood to undergraduate level and prioritizes access to Information Communication Technologies (ICTs).

We applaud gender equality initiatives including development of tools for gender-sensitive budgeting and training programmes which challenge traditional gender role stereotypes, such as the *'Defining Masculinity Excellence'* and *'Non-Traditional Skills Training'* Programmes. We encourage Trinidad and Tobago to continue building on these pragmatic innovations in an effort to weaken some of the root causes of gender-based violence, which continues to pose a challenge for the country and indeed our region.

The Bahamas **recommends** that Trinidad and Tobago:

- (i) Continues legislative review and reform to address any instances of discrimination against women in national law,
- (ii) Develops a coordinated, inter-agency approach for responding to gender-based violence, with support from international partners, as required, and
- (iii) Accelerates efforts to incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into national law.

We wish Trinidad and Tobago every success in this UPR process.

I thank you, Mr. [Vice] President.