

**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 26th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Presentation of UPR Report by the Government of Haiti**
**7 November 2016**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Haiti, led by His Excellency Camille Edouard Jr., Minister of Justice and Public Security, and we commend the country for its commitment to this important UPR process.

We join the international community in expressing our solemn condolences to Haiti, a sister CARICOM nation, on the loss of life and damage wrought in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, one month ago.

We congratulate Haiti on strides made despite coping with successive natural disasters, epidemics and related humanitarian emergencies. Noteworthy are efforts to enforce anti-corruption law and to develop a number of national action plans, including the Anti-Trafficking Action Plan (2015-2017) and the Strategic Development Plan 2030, whose implementation is to be supported by a Three-Year Investment Plan (2017-2019).

The Bahamas **recommends** that Haiti:

1. fully implements the Trafficking in Persons Act 2014 and ensures the continued work of the Committee against Trafficking in Persons;
2. adopts and fully implements the draft Nationality Law;
3. continues measures to close gaps in birth and civil registration and
4. seeks and avails itself of international cooperation to fully implement national action plans and strategies.

The country should be supported in recovery and reconstruction efforts as well as in promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth, increasing food security and reducing poverty and illiteracy.

We stand in full solidarity with Haiti for the exercise of democratic, peaceful, free and fair Presidential elections on 20 November and we call on the international community to fully support Haiti in all its critical development efforts.

I thank you.