**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Belize**
**45th Session of the UPR Working Group**
**January 29, 2024**
**As delivered by Ms. Branka Bell**

Thank you, Madam Vice President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Belize, led by Mrs. Elvia Vega-Samos, Minister of State, and Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs.

The United States commends Belize’s commitment to addressing trafficking in persons and encourages continued progress on this issue. We remain concerned about the challenges faced by women and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that Belize:

1. Continue to invest in legal and social services for victims of human trafficking and survivors of gender-based violence.
2. Address and prevent human trafficking and gender-based violence by emphasizing accountability mechanisms, enhancing legal protections, and providing trauma-informed training to frontline officials.
3. Enact and implement laws to address violence and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals.

I thank you.