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**Statement by Barbados on the Occasion of the**

**Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Mauritius**

**24 January, 2024**

**Speaking time (01:00)**

Mr. President,

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Mauritius and welcomes the report which highlights the national legislative reforms and initiatives taken promote and protect human rights at all levels.

As a fellow SIDS, facing capacity and resource constraints, we recognise the efforts of the Government to integrate policy aimed at economic growth and an inclusive society through the ‘Government Programme 2020-2024.’

We commend Mauritius on the Establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2021, and we welcome the clear efforts taken on women’s economic empowerment.

We also welcome the provision of free universal education at primary and secondary levels and the incorporation of human rights within the school curriculum.

In a constructive spirit, we recommend that Mauritius:

1. Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission continues to be adequately funded

2. Complete at the earliest, the adoption of ‘The Protection and Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Bill’

We wish Mauritius a successful review.

Thank you.

End.