**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Vanuatu,**

**46th Session, May 2, 2024**

**Delivered by Ian Hendrickson**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Vanuatu led by Minister Vacher.

We commend Vanuatu for its leadership on climate change and urge the government to develop a national human rights framework that includes strong accountability mechanisms and access to justice for human rights violations and abuses.

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

1. Improve formal interagency coordination and referrals to address and prevent the worst forms of child labor.
2. Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that address discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, disability, race, ethnicity, and religion or belief.
3. Repeal the new provisions in Articles 120 and 121 of Vanuatu’s Penal Code Act regarding criminal libel and regarding slander to ensure that freedom of expression is protected.

I thank you.