**Permanent Mission of Barbados**

**Statement Delivered at the Universal Periodic Review of Namibia**

**38th Session**

**3 May 2021, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Madame President,

Barbados welcomes the delegation of Namibia and congratulates it for the national report and the additional information provided today.

We consider that Namibia continues its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly as it relates to political participation. This is due in large measure to the Constitution, which provides for freedom of expression, including for the press.

An independent press, an effective judiciary, and a functioning democratic political system combine to promote free exchange of ideas even on difficult topics. This augurs well for democracy and continued national development, for which you must be commended.

We are pleased at the efforts in the empowerment of women. Also of significant note and commendation, is the establishment of the international women peace centre, based on the UNSC Resolution 1325, and also access to education through the Basic Education Act 2020.

Barbados recommends that Namibia:

1. Build on the legislative interventions made to enhance the enjoyment of human rights for vulnerable populations, persons living with disabilities.
2. Continue efforts to extend access to safe drinking water and improved conditions of sanitation.

We wish Namibia a successful review.