

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

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**Review of Antigua and Barbuda**

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Madam President.

Vanuatu welcomes Antigua and Barbuda to this review and thanks the delegation for the presentation today.

We commend actions taken by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2019.

Vanuatu notes the progress the government has made to restore normalcy and ensure the people meet their needs through social protection, infrastructure rebuilding and service provision since the devastating Hurricane Irma struck in 2017, completely destroying about 90 per cent of buildings on the island of Barbuda.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, Vanuatu recommends to Antigua and Barbuda the following:

1. Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
2. Engage with the OHCHR to seek assistance in the national implementation of the core international human rights treaties to which Antigua and Barbuda has become a party.
3. Continue to implement policies to build resilience and mitigate the impact of climate change while advocating for all nations to make concerted efforts to conserve the environment.

Vanuatu wishes Antigua and Barbuda a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.