

**Statement by Her Excellency Ms. Keva L. Bain
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**at the 40thSession of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
*Presentation of National Report by the Government of Haiti***

**Monday, 31 January, 2022**

The Bahamas welcomes the delegation of Haiti and thanks it for presenting the national report.

We commend initiatives to improve agricultural output and food security and especially welcome efforts in the area of Trafficking in Persons. We recognize however that Haiti’s efforts in the field of human rights are in a context of successive challenges, including a Presidential assassination, deadly natural disasters linked to climate change and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a constructive spirit, The Bahamas **recommends** that Haiti:

1. Pursue a path to free, fair and credible elections and ensure enabling conditions for their conduct;
2. Take effective measures to restore the rule of law, ending violence and impunity;

and

1. Address the practices of profiteering by orphanages and of “restavek”, by implementing legislation to prohibit them and strengthening protections for children in vulnerable situations.

We encourage Haiti to implement our accepted recommendation from the previous UPR cycle by adopting and fully implementing the draft Nationality Law.

We urge Haiti to seek support from regional and international partners and call on the global community to support the country in charting a sustainable path to recovery.

I thank you.