

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

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

**41**st **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of the Kingdom of Morocco**

08.11.2022

Thank you, Mr. President.

Vanuatu welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to this review and thank them for their comprehensive presentation today.

Vanuatu welcomes Morocco’s support for the promotion of UN resolutions recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and for seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on human rights and climate change as a member of the Core Group together with Vanuatu.

We encourage Morocco to continue implementing measures to build resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change, while advocating that all nations make concerted efforts to protect the environment.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, Vanuatu would like to make the following recommendations to the Kingdom of Morocco:

1. Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in particular to accept the visit of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and allow it to freely visit the Western Sahara region;
2. Continue to strengthen mechanisms and policies to eliminate violence against women and girls, and to promote gender equality in order to promote women’s access to economic opportunities, and to leadership and other key roles in society.

Vanuatu wishes the Kingdom on Morocco a successful review.

Thank you