**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to be delivered at the**

**Fourth Cycle Universal Periodic Review of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas**

**43rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group,**

**Wednesday 3 May 2023**

*Time allotted: 1 minute, 25 seconds*

Thank you, Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago thanks the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for its comprehensive report and, as a fellow Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member State, we welcome its robust engagement in its fourth cycle review.

Notably, this review takes place against the backdrop of the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the protracted effects of Hurricane Dorian, and the deepening climate crisis, which poses an existential threat to Small Island Developing States such as the Bahamas. In the circumstances, my delegation wishes to commend the Bahamas for the notable progress made since its last report in 2018, despite evident challenges and constraints. Trinidad and Tobago applauds the continuing commitment shown by the Bahamas to the fulfilment of its international obligations under various human rights treaty bodies, pursuant to the recommendations received during its last review.

We note ongoing efforts to address gaps in domestic legislation with the aim of improving the lives of citizens through the drafting of new legislation and amendments to existing legislation. We also recognise the heightened focus on the digitalisation of services and systems in several key public sectors, namely in the health, education and legal sectors. On women, we note the expansion of the Department of Gender and Family Affairs and the establishment of a Domestic Violence Unit.

In closing, as The Bahamas continues its efforts to improve the implementation of its human rights obligations, Trinidad and Tobago recommends:

* The pursuit of measures aimed at improving family life, including the establishment of a family court; and
* The pursuit of measures aimed at improving the access of girls to high-quality education.

We wish the delegation of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas a successful review.

I thank you.