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**Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

**UPR WORKING GROUP-**

**42nd Session**

Review of **the Bahamas**

Thank you, Mr President.

Israel warmly welcomes the delegation of the Bahamas to the UPR and thanks it for its National Report.

Israel also acknowledges the many challenges that face the Bahamas as a consequence of climate change. Israel welcomes the ratification, in 2018, of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Israel also commends Bahamas for establishing the Domestic Violence Unit and also launching the AccessAbility Bahamas Application in 2022 which is designed to help ensure inclusion and accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.

Israel is concerned that martial rape remains a problem in the Bahamas and that discrimination against women and girls and LGBTQI+ persons remains prevalent.

In this context, Israel would like to recommend Bahamas to:

1. Adopt the amendment to the Sexual Offences Act which explicitly criminalizes martial rape.
2. Adopt an action plan to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
3. Enshrine non-discrimination on the basis of gender and sexuality in the constitution.

I thank you