**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of The Bahamas**

**43rd Session, May 3, 2023**

**Delivered by Ambassador Michèle Taylor**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the delegation of the Bahamas led by the Honorable Leo Ryan Pinder, Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

We commend the Bahamas’ support for human rights and democracy.

We recommend that the Bahamas:

1. Pass comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that would protect the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons, as well as members of ethnic minority groups.
2. Remove discrimination against women in nationality laws that contribute to statelessness and address naturalization processing delays that can result in long-time residents becoming stateless.
3. Pass a law to criminalize spousal rape, including for couples who are not separated or in the process of divorce.

We wish the Bahamas a successful review.

I thank you.