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**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS & PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE ET MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES  DES  NATIONS UNIES**

**ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF BAHAMAS**

**03 May 2023– 14 30 hrs**

**Thank you Mr. President**,

The Mauritius delegation extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Bahamas during this fourth cycle of the UPR.

Mauritius expresses its appreciation to Bahamas in its efforts to promoting human rights, both nationally and internationally, especially through its financial contribution to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Council and as a member of the core group of the resolution establishing the Trust Fund.

Bahamas’ continuous work in the field of climate change, such as, the launch of the climate change advocacy initiative, by the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) is highly commendable and we encourage them to share such practices with other SIDS, like Mauritius.

In a constructive spirit, Mauritius recommends that Bahamas:

1. In line with the recommendation by CEDAW, to consider enforcing the application of the minimum age of marriage to 18 years; and
2. In line with the recommendation by UNESCO, to consider raising the minimum age for employment at least to 16 years, to prevent the high school dropout rates.

We wish Bahamas a successful review.

**Thank you.**