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**43rd SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REVIEW OF BAHAMAS**

**Wednesday 3 May 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mr. President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of Bahamas and thanks them for their report.

We commend the comprehensive efforts to eliminate violence against women, including the criminalization of marital rape and the appointment of the National Task Force for Gender-Based Violence, among others. However, the persistence of deep-rooted discriminatory stereotypes against women and girls is concerning and we encourage the Government to continue its valuable work in that regard.

We have three recommendations:

1. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
2. Ensure that cases of gender-based violence against women and girls are effectively investigated and prosecuted, and provide adequate assistance, protection and rehabilitation to women and girls who were victims of violence.
3. Amend domestic civil and criminal legislation with a view of prohibiting in law and in practice the use of corporal punishment in all places, including in schools and at home.

Croatia wishes Bahamas a successful review.

Thank you.