**UPR 29, January 17, 2017**

**Recommendations by Canada for The Bahamas’ UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes the positive steps taken by the Bahamas on the human rights of vulnerable groups, including the ratification in 2015 of two optional protocols on the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Canada recommends that the Bahamas:

1. Consider adopting the *Model Guidelines for Sexual Offence Cases in the Caribbean Region*, which follow internationally accepted best practices for the management of sexual offence cases, and offer a rights-based approach to the treatment of complainants and vulnerable witnesses, including children, involved in sexual assault cases.
2. Improve prisoners’ detention conditions, health care and nutrition at the Bahamas Department of Corrections (BDOC) in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also known as the “Mandela Rules”.
3. Ensure the treatment and detention of migrants conforms to its international human rights obligations and Refugee Convention obligations.

Canada also recognizes the important steps that the Bahamas has taken to address gender-specific human rights concerns, including upgrading the Bureau of Women’s Affairs to the Department of Gender and Family Affairs and establishing the National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence.