

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MAKEDA ANTOINE-CAMBRIDGE**

**AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

**AT THE**

**THIRD CYCLE OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF**

**THE BAHAMAS**

**29TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**17th January 2018**

Thank you Mr. President.

Trinidad and Tobago thanks the Bahamas for its comprehensive report and commends the steps taken to implement recommendations as well as give updates on noted recommendations since the previous cycle. In this regard, my delegation acknowledges the ratification of key agreements and welcomes the signature and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity) Act 2014.

Trinidad and Tobago applauds the commitment shown by the Bahamas to fulfilling its various international human rights obligations and takes notes of its multi-sectoral approach and capacity-building efforts to streamline national legislation, policy and practice with international commitments. My delegation recognises the substantial legislative progress achieved as well as the improvements made in relation to access to services for the Bahamas’ family islands, the administration of justice, the protection of the rights of children and continued action to address the issue of gender inequality. Initiatives such as the Swift Justice Initiative, the Migration Working Group and the dedicated Task Forces to review the backlog of cases and to attend to family matters are certainly laudable.

My delegation recommends that the Bahamas improve its public education and awareness and assessment of all its initiatives; continue efforts to ensure that national legislation adequately guarantees the equal rights of women as it pertains to the conferring of nationality; and engage in data collection and sharing as it relates to migration.

Trinidad and Tobago extends its best wishes to the Bahamas for a positive review and a successful campaign for a seat on the Human Rights Council for the period 2019 to 2021.

I thank you.