

**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**at the 32nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
*Presentation of National Report by the Government of New Zealand***

**21 January, 2019**

Thank you, Mr. [Vice] President.

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the high-level delegation of New Zealand.

New Zealand is to be commended on the significant efforts invested in the promotion and protection of human rights and the submission of a clear and candid national report which was widely consulted and particularly included the views of young people.

We recognize that New Zealand is working to *inter alia*, promote youth justice, reform New Zealand’s disability support system, improve realization of the right to adequate housing on an equitable basis, including for the Māori people and improve accountability for meeting human rights targets through the formation of the International Human Rights Governance Group. The introduction of a number of legislative instruments including the Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Bill, the Pay Equity and Equal Pay Bill, the Child Poverty Reduction Bill, the Family and Whānau Violence Bill and the Zero Carbon Bill further evince the level of commitment in several key areas.

Nevertheless and recognizing that some areas of challenge remain, The Bahamas respectfully **recommends** that New Zealand:

1. prioritizes the development of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral national strategy to combat sexual and family violence, including among the Māori people, which also addresses violence against men and boys;
2. takes concrete steps to improve education and participation rates for Māori and Pacific communities in New Zealand so these are equal with other ethnic groups and
3. takes concrete steps to ensure that gender parity in the public service is reached by 2020 in line with the current trajectory.

We wish New Zealand the very best in this UPR process.

I thank you.