**Statement by H.E. Ambassador J. R. Deep Ford**

**Permanent Representative of Guyana**

**Third Cycle of the UPR: Presentation of Report by Vanuatu**

**January 24, 2019, Palais des Nations**

**(2 Minutes)**

Thank you Mr. Vice President,

On behalf of the Government of Guyana, I warmly welcome the delegation from Vanuatu to Geneva and thank them for the constructive Report presented to this UPR.

Guyana commends the Government of Vanuatu for the many efforts it has made towards the implementation of recommendations from the last two UPR cycles in the promotion and protection of human rights in Vanuatu and beyond.

The Government’s National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 is recognized as a tangible expression of its commitment to the sustainable development of the country while advancing the human rights of its people. As one of the most at risk nations to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, we particularly commend the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030.

We take this opportunity to also congratulate Vanuatu on the many legislative advances made since its last UPR, in particular, the Education Act No. 9 of 2014 which provides for the representation of women in the national Education Advisory Council and the elimination of education disadvantages arising from the gender or ethnicity of a child.

Guyana offers the following three recommendations:

**Recommendations:**

1. We recommend increased efforts at eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse against women and children.
2. We recommend greater efforts at ensuring access to social services for persons with disabilities, in particular, health care, education, access to legal services and participation in the workforce.
3. We recommend creation of the necessary legislation to address trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls.

We thank the Government of Vanuatu for their cooperation and we wish them every success in this UPR.