

**Statement by**

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**Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados**

**On the Occasion of the Review of Vanuatu**

**24 January 2019**

Thank you Mr. President,

The delegation of Barbados welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu and commends its National Report and the statement delivered by the Honourable Don Ken, Minister of Justice and Community Services.

Barbados, having examined the National Report, takes good note of the impact of climate change on Vanuatu and the steps being taken to protect and promote the safety of the population. Barbados commends Vanuatu for its National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 – 2030, that provides the framework for ensuring that its communities, environment and economy are resilient to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks.

Barbados is pleased that the policy ensures that risks are identified, assessed, reduced and managed; and that it was formulated following a risk governance assessment which analyzed Vanuatu’s climate change and disaster risk governance capacity and needs, at both national and local levels.

Bearing the successes in mind, Barbados offers the following recommendations:

1. ensure that women are included and may actively participate in planning, decision-making and implementation processes concerning disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change policies.
2. continue to take wide ranging action to address the levels of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Barbados wishes Vanuatu a successful Review.

**END**