

 **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 33rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
*Presentation of National Report by the Government of Brunei Darussalam***

**10 May, 2019**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Brunei Darussalam.

We congratulate Brunei for its commitment to this UPR process and acknowledge the areas in which progress has been achieved for the promotion and protection of human rights, since the last review.

The Government’s stated commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be supported by a dedicated Special Committee for National Coordination of the SDGs and in accordance with the country’s national development plan, *Wawasan Brunei 2035* is noteworthy. Likewise, the provision of access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water to 100 per cent of the population and the development of a Senior Citizens Action Plan on Ageing and Health are commendable.

Recognizing, however, that much more remains to be done, and with a view to encouraging further progress, The Bahamas respectfully **recommends** that Brunei Darussalam:

1. ratifies the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights **(ICESCR)**, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights **(ICCPR),** the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination **(ICERD)** and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment **(CAT)**;
2. takes concrete steps to dismantle gender stereotypes and eliminate structural barriers to women and girls’ enrollment in non-traditional fields, such as technical and vocational sectors;
3. strengthens the capacity and authority of the national machinery for the advancement of women by allocating to it increased, sustainable human and financial resources.

I thank you.