

**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon**

**Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
to the United Nations, Geneva**

**33rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Third Cycle Review of Costa Rica**

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Thank you Madame Vice President,

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Costa Rica.

We congratulate Costa Rica for its ongoing efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights and for its almost complete ratification of the core international human rights instruments.

The Bahamas notes the concerns expressed by the Independent Expert on the environment, relative to challenges Costa Rica faces in the area of conservation in maritime areas. The Bahamas considers that the health of the environment and oceans is inextricably linked to the achievement of sustainable development and fulfilment of human rights. For this reason, we are committed to establishing marine protected areas and reducing marine pollution. To this end, we **recommend** that Costa Rica continue to strengthen maritime conservation systems and monitoring of protected areas.

The Bahamas congratulates Costa Rica for presiding over the 2017 United Nations Conference to negotiate the complex issue of the banning of nuclear weapons and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we recognize the recent depositing of Costa Rica’s instrument of ratification of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which reflects its support for nuclear disarmament.

We recognize that non-violent conflict resolution promotes multilateralism, democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

The Bahamas therefore **recommends** that Costa Rica continues to pursue policies and laws that advance the global cause of human rights, including in the area of disarmament.

I thank you.