

**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon**

**Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas**

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

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Third Cycle Review of the State of Qatar**

**15th May 2019**

Thank you Mr. Vice President,

The Bahamas welcomes the delegation of Qatar to its Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

The Bahamas commends Qatar for its accession to the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, indicative of a commitment to advance and respect the inalienable rights of all persons in these key areas.

We recognise the efforts of Qatar to review and amend its national legislation in an effort to strengthen the domestic legal framework and incorporate the general principles of international human rights instruments. In particular, we **recommend** that Qatar continues reviewing legislation with a view to mainstreaming the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in law and practice, towards the achievement of gender equality.

Human rights are essential to sustainable development. For Small Island Developing States, international cooperation is a key component of development. We thus commend the commitment of Qatar to assist countries in their efforts to implement Agenda 2030, including in supporting capacity-building to enhance their resilience vis-à-vis the phenomenon of climate change. The Bahamas therefore **recommends** that Qatar continues its international cooperation projects, including in the area of environmental protection and mitigating climate change, while ensuring that a focus on resilience and disaster risk reduction is included as a component of these.

I thank you.