

**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 35th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
*Presentation of National Report by the Government of Kiribati***

**20 January, 2020**

Thank you, Madam/Mr. [Vice] President.

The Bahamas extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Kiribati.

We appreciate Kiribati’s candid national report and commend the significant efforts invested in the promotion and protection of human rights, notwithstanding resource challenges faced by the country.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas understands the vulnerability faced by Kiribati to the effects of climate change. We congratulate Kiribati on efforts in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and building resilience, including through the Climate Change Act 2019 which has mainstreamed the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

Understanding that gender-based violence remains a significant challenge for Kiribati, The Bahamas also welcomes the efforts of the country to address this through regional training programmes, legislation, including the Family Peace Act and the Shared Implementation Plan (SHIP) for the Policy to Eliminate Sexual and Gender Based Violence (ESGBV) in addition to primary prevention programmes. We also recognise Kiribati’s efforts in other domains such as employment, education and health. Ratification by Kiribati of the Convention Against Torture (CAT) is also a significant positive development.

Nevertheless and recognizing that some areas of challenge remain, The Bahamas respectfully **recommends** that Kiribati:

1. Ratifies the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
2. Ensures adequate resources are allocated for sexual and reproductive health services, particularly which target adolescents, in order to to stem the high incidence of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among young people
3. Considers establishing a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF)

We wish Kiribati every success in this UPR process and call on the international community to support the country in accordance with Kiribati’s identified priority areas for technical assistance and capacity-building.

I thank you.