



**Statement by Ms. Sasha Dixon, Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations
Office and Other International Organizations**

on the occasion of the

**Second Intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on Human Rights and
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Decade of Action and Delivery on the
SDGs**

Session 2:

**Reflections and conversation on human rights and the “Decade of Action and
Delivery of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.” *Building on the pledge of the
2019 High-level Political Forum Declaration***

***“Leave No One Behind”: How can promoting and protecting human rights accelerate
the realization of the SDGs.***

**3 December, 2019
Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you, Chair.

The Bahamas welcomes this discussion on the crucial interlinkages between development and human rights, which, we agree, are “two sides of the same coin” and we trust that this meeting will contribute to breaking down the silos around development and human rights that continue to impede progress toward the realization of Agenda 2030.

Time is running out in many ways. As Secretary-General Guterres reminded us at the SDG Summit in September, despite some progress, “we are still off track”. And part of the reason may be that, far too often, we are on *multiple* tracks. If our goal is to leave no one behind, we must undertake concerted action on a *united* track, allowing human rights and development to advance together, in a manner which is mutually reinforcing.

As a co-facilitator of the negotiations in New York, The Bahamas welcomes the Declaration adopted by our Leaders at the September Summit. Moreover, we recognise that every paragraph can be linked to human rights.

As studies have found, the 2030 agenda must be implemented in compliance with international human rights law, not only to *ensure that development programmes and policies improve inequalities* but also in order to *prevent them from exacerbating inequalities* and hindering the very progress we are seeking to achieve.

One clear example, to us, of how promoting human rights and can accelerate achievement of the SDGs, is in fighting climate change. Climate change is a global threat to human rights and natural disasters, fuelled by climate change, can roll back development gains made over decades. The protection of human rights, ensuring inclusion, promoting the right to a healthy environment *inter alia* are all relevant to combating climate change and the reverse is also true. They must be seen and treated as an integrated agenda, by all stakeholders.

In closing, we wish to ask the panel, *how can we better use rights-based monitoring of sustainable development and climate change policies, including through mechanisms such as the UPR, to advance achievement of the SDGs?*

I thank you.