

Bahamas VNR Statement 2021

Thank you chair, I am speaking on behalf of the NGO Major Group.

We recognize that this is the second VNR for Bahamas and we appreciate the stated commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals by your Government.

We note your points on the devastating impact of hurricanes and of the Covid pandemic since the previous VNR.

You mention that 'As a Small Island Developing State, the effects of climate change impact you the most, even though you contribute to it the least.' Please can you highlight key steps that you are taking to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure protection to biodiversity within your small island and maritime context?

In terms of the reconstruction and Covid recovery, please can you highlight how you are prioritising support to groups that are most often left behind, such as women, young persons, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, persons discriminated on work and descent, migrants and refugees, as well as people in fragile and conflict-affected areas, among others, including those who face multiple intersecting challenges?

Finally, in terms of international partnerships from civil society- please can you set out what you see as the most useful steps that international organisations can take to support your own domestic recovery efforts for a just and sustainable future?